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ABSTRACT

This annotated bibliography of instructional media in communication skills presents annotations of 112 books and videotapes for students in grades from pre-kindergarten through grade 12, and of 38 books and videos for teachers. The material in the bibliography for students consists mostly of poetry collections published in 1990 and 1991. The materials for teachers in the bibliography deal with writing instruction, literature instruction, the whole language approach, and classroom management. (RS)

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ADVISORY List

INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

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ADVISORY List

INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

LINKING RESOURCES WITH NORTH CAROLINA CURRICULUM • AUGUST, 1991

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GRADES PreK-3

Books

ABC Read Books. **3 titles each 26 p. teacher's guide 28 p. $42.95 paper. DLM Teaching, 1990. (ISBN 1-55924-340-6) Grades PreK-2**

Anybody Can. The Opposite Alphabet. Who Went Where?

A useful series for exploring the alphabet, these spiral-bound, concept books teach the sequence of letters, their sounds, and upper and lower case form using predictable lines and language patterns. Large page size and print as well as slick, card-stock surface make these books a useful transition from "big books" for whole class and small group work to texts for independent reading. Teaching alliteration and opposites, vocabulary development, and identifying objects beginning with a particular letter are other applications. A teacher's guide includes lesson plans and activities, bibliography, vocabulary list, text for each book, and instructions on making personal-sized and classroom big books. A multipurpose teacher resource and beginning reader series.

Adoff, Arnold. ***In for Winter, Out for Spring.*** **unp. $14.95. Harcourt, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-238637-8) Grades PreK-3**

Using capitalized type which hopscotches across each page in unusual patterns, this radiant picture book of twenty-eight free-verse poems depicts activities large and small which occur during a year on an African-American family's farm. Narrated by Rebecca, the family's youngest member, the text is displayed in an imaginative, eye-catching format which suggests e. e. cummings in reverse. Jerry Pinkney's gorgeous watercolor and pencil illustrations richly amplify the warmth and connectedness of Arnold Adoff's poetic narrative. An excellent example to teach visual effect in writing, this unique volume is more appropriate as a read-aloud than as recreational reading. Poor binding.

Basal Breaks: Applying Reading Strategies. **Grade 1 Unit. 10 copies each of 6 paperback titles, teacher's guide $120. Scholastic Inc., 1990. Grade 1**

Harry and the Terrible Whatzit. I Was Walking Down the Road. Little Red Hen. The Snowy Day. This Is the Place for Me. Why Can't I Fly?

Recycling six familiar titles, *Basal Breaks* is designed to provide good literature which would supplement lessons taught in first grade reading programs that rely on basal texts. Components of the program are housed in a cardboard display unit for easy access. The guide contains model literature units, a plan for create-your-own units, explanations of two options (cooperative learning strategies, individual reading approach) for utilizing the units, suggested activitities, and bibliography. Some useful ideas here.

Beisner, Monika. ***Catch That Cat! A Picture Book of Rhymes and Puzzles.*** **unp. $13.95. Farrar, 1990. (ISBN 0-374-31226-5) Grades PreK-5**

This imaginative collection of sixteen challenging picture puzzles and accompanying rhymes features cats in a variety of counting and spelling games. Beisner's intricate, sophisticated illustrations are luxurious extensions of her whimsical verses. A multipurpose picture book that is fun for many age and abiity levels, *Catch That Cat!* would be an entrancing supplement for arts education classes and poetry units. Answers are on the final pages.

Bennett, Jill, sel. ***A Cup of Starshine: Poems and Pictures for Young Children.*** **60 p. $16.95. Harcourt, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-220982-4) Grades PreK-2**

Designed to introduce poetry to young children, this illustrated collection of seventy brief poems contains a diverse group of familiar (e.g., Prelutsky, Merriam, Ciardi) and unfamiliar poets. Rich in "the 3 Rs of poetry" (i.e., rhyme, rhythm, and repetition), these gems have strong aural appeal and describe everyday as well as fanciful things. Graham Percy's charming, moon-faced characters are soft, colorful complements which extend and enhance each poem. An excellent supplement for teaching poetry and for enriching story times. Index.

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Bernstein, Joanne E., and Paul Cohen. ***Why Didn't the Dinosaur Cross the Road? And Other Prehistoric Riddles.*** **unp. $8.95. Whitman, 1990. (ISBN 0-8075-9077-0) Grades 3-6**

High-interest subject matter, clever wordplay, a combination of accessible and challenging vocabulary, and use of humor highlight this entertaining and sometimes educational collection of riddles about dinosaurs, cavemen, and other prehistoric phenomena. Comical two-color cartoons illustrate this slender volume, adding to its appeal for reluctant and other readers.

Carlstrom, Nancy White. ***It's About Time, Jesse Bear and Other Rhymes.*** **unp. $13.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-717351-8) Grades PreK-1**

This latest book featuring Carlstrom's energetic Jesse Bear traces a day's activities in twelve musical poems full of ear-appealing onomatopoeia, repetition, and rhyme. Bruce Degen's delightful ink and watercolor illustrations affectionately depict this humanized bear and his family in a variety of recognizable surroundings and situations. A good choice for reading aloud, teaching sound in poetry, and inspiring young students to write about daily experiences in verse.

Clark, Emma Chichester, sel. ***I Never Saw a Purple Cow and Other Nonsense Rhymes.*** **93 p. $18.95. Little, 1991. (ISBN 0-316-14500-9) Grades PreK-3**

Animals, both real and imaginary, are celebrated in this illustrated collection of 117 familiar and obscure nonsense rhymes of all kinds, including anonymous limericks, songs, Mother Goose, and classics by Lear and Carroll. Collector/illustrator Emma Chichester Clark augments each poem's gentle humor through clever watercolors featuring her familiar, round-eyed characters. Quick and easy to read for independent browsing, this treasury is also suitable for story time reading aloud, lessons on rhyme, and animal unit introductions. Index of first lines.

Cole, Joanna, and Stephanie Calmenson, comps. ***Ready . . . Set . . . Read! The Beginning Reader's Treasury.*** **144 p. $17.95. Doubleday, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-41416-1) Grades PreK-3**

From its colorful cover and lively illustrations to its appealing stories, poems, and games, this collection beckons beginning readers to explore and extend their vocabulary and reading skills. Selections include age-appropriate works by Dr. Seuss, Arnold Lobel, Eve Merriam, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Robert Louis Stevenson, as well as illustrations by Maurice Sendak, Chris Demarest, Bernard Wiseman, Dr. Seuss, and others. Children will love the contents--riddles, tongue twisters, hidden pictures, and stories told with words and pictures. Guaranteed to stimulate invented stories, appeals for oral reading, and individual reading.

Edwards, Richard. ***A Mouse in My Roof.*** **76 p. $13.95. Delacorte, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-30035-2) Grades 2-5**

Forty-five poems engage young listeners and would-be poets with a beguiling mix of sounds, rhythms, and images, from a rubber ducky on its soapy bathroom shelf, longing to be an eagle, to "Mary and Sarah"--"Mary likes smooth things, / Things that glide: / Sleek skis swishing down a mountainside," whereas Sarah likes rough things, "The gales of a coast, / The husk of a chestnut, / A plate of burnt toast." Fun and beauty, unexpected and uningratiating, such is the essence of the collection. A problem: These are British and will puzzle American children with references to such unknowns here as Swedes (rutabagas), bubble and squeak (cabbage and potatoes), and--momentarily--Father Christmas. Illustrated.

Field, Eugene. ***The Gingham Dog and the Calico Cat.*** **unp. $14.95. Philomel Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-399-22151-4) Grades PreK-2**

Illustrator Janet Street not only gives Eugene Field's classic poem "The Duel" a new title but also changes its setting from the traditional nursery to a contemporary antique and toy shop and creates a teddy bear narrator who appears in the margins. Although the picture-book format interrupts the narrative flow of this classic bit of nonsense rhyme, Street's sunny, stylized watercolors enhance Field's lively humor. This fresh approach to an old favorite read-aloud could stimulate imaginative artwork, humorous stories in rhyme, and creative dramatic and choral presentations.

Fraser, Betty. ***First Things First: An Illustrated Collection of Sayings Useful and Familiar for Children.*** **unp. $12.89. HarperCollins, 1990. (ISBN 0-06-021855-X) Grades PreK-3**

An illustrated collection of proverbs, *First Things First* shows children that there are many situations in which just the right words to say are those that have been said time and time again. Fraser's large-print, simple text introduces each saying with a "What do you say when" question, a format ideal for read-aloud sessions working on children's communication and predicting skills. Fraser's bright and busy watercolors depict a variety of genders and cultures, breathing new life into old maxims which may or may not be familiar to young readers. A good resource for teaching proverbs and fables as well as for stimulating children to write their own.

Hale, Sarah Josepha. ***Mary Had a Little Lamb.*** **unp. $12.95. Scholastic Inc., 1990. (ISBN 0-590-43773-9) Grades PreK-2**

Photographer Bruce McMillan presents a contemporary visual interpretation of Hale's familiar 19th-century poem about Mary and her pet lamb. Mary here is a lovely African-American child with glasses, a conscious choice which McMillan explains along with other technical notes about his photographic process. A copy of Hale's original poem follows the text's shortened version. Concluding notes on it and a page from McGuffey's *First Eclectic Reader* enhance this volume's value for reading aloud, class discussion, and independent enjoyment. A flaw is its poor binding.

Hall, Katy, and Lisa Eisenberg. ***Snaky Riddles. (Easy-to-Read Books)*** **48 p. $9.89. Dial Bks. Young, 1990. (ISBN 0-8037-0670-7) Grades K-3**

This slender, high-interest collection of humorous riddles about snakes is appropriate for both beginning and reluctant readers. Brightly colored cartoons illustrate the wordplay, which ranges from simple to complex. In addition to leisure reading, these riddles could be useful in science classes on reptiles and in teaching some vocabulary words (e.g., resuscitation, revolving).

Hoban, Tana. *All About Where*. unp. $13.88. Greenwillow, 1991. (ISBN 0-688-09698-0) Grades PreK-2

Tana Hoban's brilliant color photography illustrates location words and spatial relationships. Although staggered, cut pages reveal fifteen prepositions printed along the margins of the first and last pages, children will surely add many more descriptive words when discussing these gorgeous compositions. An excellent language teaching tool.

Hoban, Tana. *Exactly the Opposite*. unp. $12.88. Greenwillow, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-08862-7) Grades PreK-2

Children will provide their own text in this wordless photographic concept book illustrating opposites. Tana Hoban's vivid color photographs of scenes from nature, people in action, and ordinary objects suggest multiple connotations to stimulate class discussion. A great resource to teach vocabulary.

Hoberman, Mary Ann. *A Fine Fat Pig and Other Animal Poems*. unp. $14.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-022426-6) Grades K-5

In this unique blend of art and poetry, Malcah Zeldis's fourteen modern folk art paintings of animals provide the inspiration for Mary Ann Hoberman's humorous poems highlighting their characteristics. Her clever, cadenced rhymes are wonderful complements to Zeldis's bold, childlike depictions. A fine interdisciplinary resource for arts education, creative writing, and animal studies classes.

Hopkins, Lee Bennett, sel. *Good Books, Good Times!* 32 p. $12.89. HarperCollins, 1990. (ISBN 0-06-022528-9) Grades PreK-5

Here's the book to convert nonreaders to the joys of the printed word--a friendly little collection of poems about the pleasures of all kinds of reading. Poems by X. J. Kennedy, Myra Cohn Livingston, Arnold Lobel, and David McCord, among others, focus on the mystery, entertainment, escape, and, most appealingly, the self-discovery available in reading. Harvey Stevenson's lighthearted, softly colored illustrations extend the romance of reading, showing kids and books in every inviting combination. An exciting way to introduce new units, reading for pleasure, or book discussions. Index.

Johnston, Tony. *I'm Gonna Tell Mama I Want An Iguana*. unp. $14.95. Putnam, 1990. (ISBN 0-399-21934-X) Grades PreK-2

Featuring Lillian Hoban's cheerful, full-color illustrations, this humorous collection of twenty-three brief verses from a child's viewpoint is filled with a variety of onomatopoeic observations and accessible images. Johnston's funny rhymes are delightful material to enliven read-aloud times, creative writing sessions, and class choral recitations.

Joseph, Lynn. *Coconut Kind of Day: Island Poems*. unp. $13.88. Lothrop, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-09120-2) Grades K-4

Autobiographical verses depicting the life of a little girl growing up in Trinidad, this collection captures island rhythms of language, music, and nature itself. In first-person poems distinctive for their native patois, Lynn Joseph remembers going to the island school in her blue and white uniform, greeting the *palet* (ice cream) man, listening to steel drums, and participating in *pullin' seine* (helping pull the fishing nets onto the beach). Sandra Speidel's rich, impressionistic scenes are deliciously Caribbean. A book for children to view, read, and gain understanding of another culture. Author's note defines terms.

Koch, Michelle. *By the Sea*. unp. $13.88. Greenwillow, 1991. (ISBN 0-688-09550-X) Grades PreK-2

This lovely concept book about opposites features a seaside setting, softly shaded watercolors, and a text of ten pairs in large, lower-case print. Koch's childlike paintings suggest other opposite connotations, making this book a useful vehicle to stimulate class discussion and to enrich vocabulary lessons, children's artwork, and science units on the sea environment and its creatures.

Larrick, Nancy, comp. *Mice Are Nice*. 48 p. $15.95. Philomel Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-399-21495-X) Grades PreK-5

A charming, high-quality collection of twenty-five poems about mice, this slender volume's picture-book format appeals to the child in everyone. Ed Young's soft charcoal and pastel depictions of a mouse-eye view of cats and humans extend the humorous, affectionate verses by John Ciardi, A. A. Milne, Jack Prelutsky, Karla Kushkin, et al. A beautiful, varied selection full of brisk rhythms and surprises, *Mice Are Nice* is a wonderful book to read aloud and to supplement poetry units.

Lear, Edward. *The Owl and the Pussycat*. unp. $14.95. Putnam, 1991. (ISBN 0-399-21925-0) Grades PreK-3

Such a lavish, eye-pleasing publication as this old favorite about the cat and the owl who court and marry, here gloriously illustrated by Jan Brett, is a delightful occasion in children's literature. Brett has two stories going on, showing in her richly tropical watercolors the famous voyage of the "elegant" owl and the beautiful pussycat sailing across the top half of each page and on the bottom half, below sea level, the equally absorbing adventures of sea turtles, starfish, schools of other fish, and a tiny sea horse, all flashing about among coral and shells. Buy this for the famished eye of sea lovers, turtle and goldfish fans, would-be artists, and, of course, lovers of Edward Lear's classic.

Leedy, Loreen. *The Furry News: How to Make a Newspaper*. unp. $13.95. Holiday, 1990. (ISBN 0-8234-0793-4) Grades 2-4

Loreen Leedy's colorful, easy picture book with simple text is a great introduction to the basics of newspaper production in step-by-step instructions depicting some friendly animals as they publish a local newspaper, *The Furry News*. Guided by Big Bear and Rabbit, they write, edit, and print their paper, offering valuable tips for youngsters making their own newspaper as well as defining important newspaper terms. Illustrated charts summarize the process at the end. A glossary reviews key words. Be prepared for a burst of newshound-itis. Lively and fun!

Livingston, Myra Cohn, sel. *Dog Poems*. 32 p. $12.95. Holiday, 1990. (ISBN 0-8234-0776-4) Grades K-6

Including such well-known names as John Ciardi and Gwendolyn Brooks as well as more contemporary poets, this collection of brisk, lively poems about dogs will appeal to animal-loving children. Appearing against Leslie Morrill's many appealing pencil drawings, the collection of short verses begins with "Newborn Puppy" and concludes

with an encomium "For Mugs" who has died. In between range poems from a tribute to an old hound to a lament for a lost dog. Children will enjoy individual or group, silent or oral readings of these playful poems.

Livingston, Myra Cohn. *My Head Is Red and Other Riddle Rhymes.* unp. $12.95. Holiday, 1990. (ISBN 0-8234-0806-X) Grades PreK-3

Sprightly riddles on colored backgrounds offer one brief rhyming puzzle per page. The answer appears upside down on the same page. Topics range from the familiar (balloons, ball) to the more difficult (dinosaur, volcano, camera). The verses, short and rhymed, will entertain young readers/listeners and intrigue their imaginations--"Stretch my ribs out wide and high / And I will try to keep you dry." (Answer: Umbrella)

MacCarthy, Patricia. *Herds of Words.* unp. $11.95. Dial Bks. Young, 1991. (ISBN 0-8037-0892-0) Grades K-5

This eye-catching sequel to *Animals Galore* continues the format of naming and illustrating collective nouns. Unusual white outlines characterize MacCarthy's batik-like watercolors depicting both familiar and less familiar groups (e.g., a crew of sailors and a skein of geese). Its predominant use of animals, attractive illustrations, and concept approach make this creative book a wonderful resource for language study.

McMillan, Bruce. *One Sun: A Book of Terse Verse.* unp. $14.95. Holiday, 1990. (ISBN 0-8234-0810-8) Grade PreK-3

It's a gimmick, but it works, thanks to superb, high-resolution, color photographs of child-centered beach activities on one page, facing two monosyllabic rhyming words on the opposite page. For example, "SNAIL TRAIL" faces a sharply defined photograph of a silver-backed snail threading toward the corner of the page, his small grooved trail like a sun-flecked wake behind him in the beach sand. Other rhymes are "Tan Man" (a lifeguard), "Scoop Group" (four blue sand pail scoops), and "Neat Seat" (a little boy perched beside the lifeguard in his high white stand). This book could be the very first source for showing younger readers how they can turn everyday activities into rhymes or just into fun with words.

***Macmillan First Dictionary.* 402 p. $12.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-761731-9) Grades 1-3**

Featuring more than 2,100 entries, plentiful illustrations, and easy-on-the-eyes white space, this publication is an inviting introduction to the dictionary. Entries present the word in bold face on a separate line, a full-sentence definition and context sentence (both with the word in bold type), and related forms of the word (such as plurals or past tense). Multiple definitions are often provided. Pictures and photographs with careful, interesting captions illustrate concepts (such as "against" or "tight") as well as objects. Each page offers varied picture placement, but preserves and reinforces dictionary format with columns and guide words. Supplemental sections explain how to use the dictionary (for adults and students), the anatomy of an entry, the origins of words and writing, and common weights and measures. The basis for word selection is not explained beyond a stated focus on "most common words." Includes maps of the world (at the continent level) and United States.

***Macmillan Picture Wordbook.* 64 p. $8.95. Macmillan, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-754641-1) Grades PreK-1**

Identifying more than 900 everyday and exotic objects, animals, places, and activities, this appealing wordbook is a fascinating companion for preschool and early primary children. Colorful, double-page spreads greet children with scenes (such as school, sea, or street) and drawings that are clearly labelled, appropriately detailed, warm, and culturally diverse. More than thirty categories invite exploration of places, city and country life, transportation, climate areas and animals in habitats, outer space, fantastic creatures and places, seasons, tools, articles of clothing, and other topics. Also included are an index of words, suggestions for helping children "enjoy" the book, and special resource pages on the alphabet and colors, as well as numbers, opposites, and shapes. The family album pages unfortunately focus exclusively on a traditional, two-parent configuration. Appropriate for browsing, centers, ESL students, and general curriculum support, the *Macmillan Picture Wordbook* encourages vocabulary growth, concept development, and print awareness.

Marshak, Samuel. *Hail to Mail.* Translated from the Russian by Richard Peaver. unp. $14.95. H. Holt & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8050-1132-3) Grades K-4

In this rhymed salute to the postal service, Russian author Samuel Marshak and his translator, Richard Pevear, wittily describe the route of a globe-trotting certified letter and the international cast of mail carriers who pursue Mr. John Peck, its intended and elusive addressee. Vladimir Radunsky's bold, eye-catching illustrations contain distorted perspectives and clever visual jokes to extend this tribute to persistence. A lively supplement for units on transportation, careers, geography, and maps.

Meigs, Mildred Plew. *Moon Song.* unp. $14.88. Morrow, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-08707-8) Grades PreK-5

According to this ballad written in 1923, the moon fishes the sea for treasure with a silver net made of three moonbeams. Meigs's rhyming stanzas and refrain are lyrical and imaginative, but the magic of this picture book lies in Chris Conover's beautiful, complex illustrations. Surreal images fill each page in the lovely, detailed watercolors which depict a little girl's dream about her cat's search for "why the moon man fishes the sea." Conover thoughtfully includes some explanation of her illustrations and questions to pique readers' curiosity. Teachers and children can have "Where's Waldo"-type fun identifying animals and plants around and below the sea, zodiac signs, and traditional symbols of love, peace, and wisdom. The writing and artwork will provide stimulation for children's own illustrated songs, fantasies, and poems.

Nave, Yolanda. *Goosebumps & Butterflies.* unp. $12.99. Orchard Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-531-08504-X) Grades PreK-2

Like contemporary Mother Goose rhymes, author/illustrator Yolanda Nave's metered verses chronicle a child's-eye view of various recognizable

mishaps and fears in lighthearted fashion. Nave's comical, wide-eyed, pen-and-ink and watercolor cartoons not only complement her poetic crises but often add important details. Good resource to introduce discussion of children's concerns and to model creative writing and arts activities which express them.

Newby, Robert, adapt. ***King Midas: With Selected Sentences in American Sign Language.*** **unp. $14.95. Forest Hse., 1990. (ISBN 1-878363-25-5) Grades PreK-3**

Robert Newby has adapted and illustrated the famous tale of the king whose touch turned every object, even his beloved daughter, instantly into gold in a version which illustrates selected sentences in American sign language for the hearing impaired. Based sketchily on Nathaniel Hawthorne's rendering of the story, the book is unique for its pen-and-ink signed language diagrams facing each page of text with full-color illustration. An illustrated manual alphabet accompanies an extensive introduction, easing the uninitiated into using this unique text with the targeted audience.

Noyes, Alfred. ***The Highwayman.*** **unp. $14.95. Harcourt, 1990. (ISBN 0-15-234340-7) Grades 1-4**

Neil Waldman has illustrated Alfred Noyes' famous narrative poem in moon-mottled shades of blue, orange, and green highlighted by dramatic uses of black--the highwayman himself is a mysterious, larger-than-life, black silhouette on the moonlit landscape. Eeriness, urgency, and a sense of doomed love are vividly evoked, enhanced by wind-tossed, leaf-blown scenes and borders. Children always love this hypnotic poem and will enjoy the drama rendered by Waldman's strong, purposeful strokes.

Prelutsky, Jack. ***Beneath a Blue Umbrella.*** **64 p. $15.95. Greenwillow, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-06429-9) Grades PreK-3**

Teachers who want to introduce children to rhyme should find this collection of twenty-eight simple but catchy ones a treat. Complemented by Garth Williams's ink and watercolor paintings, Prelutsy's handsome, well-prepared text will yield favorites immediately. (Try "Polly Saw a Butterfly," "Patter Pitter Caterpillar," or "Amanda Found a Flounder.") Lyrical entertainment for young readers and writers.

Prelutsky, Jack, sel. ***For Laughing Out Loud: Poems to Tickle Your Funnybone.*** **84 p. $15.99. Knopf, 1991. (ISBN 0-394-92144-5) Grades K-6**

This playful collection of 132 humorous poems, puns, riddles, and rhymes features mostly contemporary writers, such as Silverstein, Viorst, Kennedy, Lobel, Kushkin, and, of course, Prelutsky. In no obvious order, the clever wordplay flows across the pages as one funny idea seems to lead to another, energetically abetted by Marjorie Priceman's madcap line-and-wash watercolors. Full of high-interest, child-appealing nonsense, this entertaining volume will add spice to story hours, poetry units, and independent reading time. Author and title indexes.

Prelutsky, Jack. ***Something BIG Has Been Here.*** **160 p. $14.95. Greenwillow, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-06434-5) Grades PreK-4**

Popular children's poet, Jack Prelutsky, scores again with these witty, whimsical poetic excursions into children's territory, assisted by James Stevenson's friendly, laugh-provoking black-and-white drawings. Characters like Rhododendra Rosenbloom, Picklepuss Pearl, and Disputatious Deeble emerge vividly among themes devoted to children's concerns--family, animals, silly sounds, insects, fusses, ghosts, and more. Guaranteed to circulate, this one will inspire spin-offs from the more creative and serve to amuse all students. Index.

Quackenbush, Robert. ***Robert Quackenbush's Treasury of Humor.*** **96 p. $16.95. Doubleday, 1990. (ISBN 0-385-26654-5) Grades 1-3**

Organized by months of the year, this amusing compendium of "stories, songs, jokes, limericks, and riddles" includes classic Lear and Carroll verses along with folk songs with added lyrics and original Quackenbush stories. Colorfully illustrated in intricate black line and watercolor, Quackenbush's familiar animal characters cavort across the pages as entertainers on an old-time showboat. A high-interest, accessible text for holiday read-alouds and independent reading across ability levels.

Read-About Books. **8 titles each 16 p. teacher's booklet 12 p. $36. Rigby, 1990. (Available from I.E.S.S.) Grades PreK-3**

Animals Talk, Too **(ISBN 0-7901-0223-4).** ***Kids Can Cook*** **(ISBN 0-7901-0221-8).** ***Long, Long Ago*** **(ISBN 0-7901-0227-7).** ***Look What I Made!*** **(ISBN 0-7901-0233-1).** ***Masks*** **(ISBN 0-7901-0219-6).** ***Weather*** **(ISBN 0-7901-0229-3).** ***What's This?*** **(ISBN 0-7901-0231-5).** ***Who Looks After Me?*** **(ISBN 0-7901-0225-0).**

Designed to introduce beginning readers to nonfiction literature, this series of brief picture books includes titles that could supplement science (animals, prehistoric times, weather), arts and crafts, and social studies curricula. Amply illustrated with full-color diagrams and photographs, these little books would be useful for teaching children how to use a table of contents (*Weather* even has a glossary), to read captions and text, and to write directions. A serious flaw in this useful series is the lack of safety precautions in *Kids Can Cook* and *Look What I Made*! No mention is made of having adult help with hammers, knives, and ovens or of washing hands and clean-up. Also, some terms (particularly in *Weather* and *Long, Long Ago*) and vocabulary (frequency, scent) may need explanation for beginning readers. A teacher resource guide suggests a format to introduce each book (set the scene, read the text, then respond to it) and describes related activities. A useful series for classroom collections.

Reeves, James. ***Ragged Robin: Poems from A to Z.*** **unp. $16.95. Little, 1990. (ISBN 0-316-73829-8) Grades PreK-4**

This new edition of James Reeves's collection of fanciful verses for each letter of the alphabet adds imaginative watercolors by Emma Chichester Clark. Clark's playful, evocative illustrations augment Reeves's alliterative, rhyming tour of the twenty-six letters. Although these poems and pictures have a strong British flavor, children should enjoy this

volume's fairy tale quality, its emphasis on sound in poetry, and its humor. A good resource for creative writing ideas and choral recitations.

Retan, Walter, comp. *Bunnies, Bunnies, Bunnies: A Treasury of Stories, Songs, and Poems*. 96 p. $18.98. Silver Pr., 1991. (ISBN 0-671-73220-X) (Available from Silver Burdett Pr.) Grades PreK-2

This attractive, treasure-filled collection of stories, poems, and songs about rabbits features an impressive group of authors and illustrators, including Beatrix Potter, Margery Williams, Lillian Hoban, Garth Williams, and Eve Merriam. Delightful full-color illustrations invite young readers to browse among a variety of classic tales, contemporary read-alouds, and fables and folktales from different cultures. Retan provides informative introductions to several book excerpts, such as Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and Adams's *Watership Down*. A quality supplement for story times, independent reading, and science and creative writing units focusing on animals.

Shea, Pegi Deitz. *Bungalow Fungalow*. 32 p. $13.95. Clarion Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-395-55387-3) Grades K-3

In fifteen narrative poems, young Billy Toole describes his activities during a weeklong summer vacation with his grandparents at the New Jersey shore. Elizabeth Sayles' sunny, softly shaded pastels amplify Pegi Deitz Shea's cadenced text, creating an inviting picture book look. A lovely, quiet story to stimulate creative writing and artwork about summer, the beach, vacations, and other family times.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *A Child's Garden of Verses*. 103 p. $13.95. Philomel Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-399-21818-1) Grades PreK-3

To supplement original illustrations in a 1926 edition of Stevenson's classic rhymes for children, this new version of *A Child's Garden of Verses* contains additional paintings by renowned Dutch illustrator Henriette Willebeek Le Mair. Children will easily recognize the ordinary and fanciful activities depicted in Le Mair's delicate, decorative, and detailed pen-and-ink and watercolor pictures and borders. However, teachers could engage students in lively discussions about differences and similarities between children's hairstyles, clothing, and surroundings then and now.

Stevenson, Robert Louis. *My Shadow*. unp. $14.95. Putnam, 1990. (ISBN 0-399-22216-2) Grades PreK-2

Ted Rand's lively watercolors take precedence over the words of Robert Louis Stevenson's clever little poem about a child's shadow. So ingenious, elegant, full of motion and happy faces, each double-page spread complements one or two lines with a fully delineated picture of children from different cultures dancing, hopping, and leaping with their shadows. This picture-poem would be a lovely introduction to rhythm and rhyme as well as a good discussion-starter about universality and identifying the various locations and nationalities depicted in Rand's paintings.

Other Media

***Ralph S. Mouse*. 1 videocassette 40 min. VHS $225. Churchill Films, 1990. Grades PreK-5**

Winner of the first Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children's Video, this forty-minute videocassette combines live-action with puppet animation to adapt Beverly Cleary's tale of the exuberant, motorcycle-riding *Ralph S. Mouse*. A talented cast of humans and complex special effects enhance this third production concerning Ralph's adventures and his friendship with Matt, the bellman at Mountain View Inn, and young Ryan. Children who read Cleary's book and then view the movie will be intrigued with and entertained by Ralph's visit to Ryan's school. Science and math projects involving mice and mazes would be good interdisciplinary tie-ins along with class discussion about getting along and problem solving.

GRADES 4-8

Books

Booth, David, sel. *'Til All the Stars Have Fallen: A Collection of Poems for Children*. 93 p. $14.95. Viking, 1990. (ISBN 0-670-83272-3) Grades 3-6

A recipe for soup and one for licorice, instructions for sunbathing, a royal visit, Indian legends, lessons in courage, and sweet reminiscences are among the many pleasures in this book of poetry about nature and human nature by Canadian men and women. A delightful introduction by David Booth is in itself poetic, encouraging readers to "taste the words of a poem on your tongue as you make meaning in your imagination" and suggesting a variety of ways to appreciate poems. Kady MacDonald Denton illustrates each poem with distinctive watercolor pictures, as varied and sensitive as the works they enhance. A lovely supplement to enrich creative writing classes, social studies units on Canada, and multicultural literature collections. Index of authors and titles.

Booth, David, sel. *Voices on the Wind: Poems for All Seasons*. 41 p. $13.88. Morrow, 1990. (ISBN 0-688-09555-0) Grades 1-8

Lovely, whimsical poems celebrate the seasons in a collection offering some refreshingly less familiar, not so over-anthologized titles. Michele Lemieux's soft, spring-felt illustrations are rich in greens and blues with some russets and white, producing an open, outdoorsy sense of space and nature. Jane Yolen, William Blake, Christina Rossetti, John Ciardi, and Mark Van Doren are some poets included. This from "And Suddenly Spring" (Margaret Hillert) catches the spirit of the collection: "Then suddenly the winds awoke / And raced across the sky. / They bumped right into April, / Splashing springtime in my eye."

Buckner, Sally. *Our Words, Our Ways: Reading and Writing in North Carolina.* 616 p. With teacher's resource guide $30. ($20 in classroom sets) Carolina Acad. Pr., 1991. (ISBN 0-89089-401-9) Grades 6-8

Sally Buckner has compiled a representative anthology of North Carolina writing, both creative and expository, spanning the state's history from pre-Colonial Cherokee and Tuscarora myths to late 20th-century poems and stories about subjects as varied as the Vietnam War, sharecropping, family reunions, and beach people versus mountain people. This book, designed as a companion to the history of North Carolina studied by eighth graders, is a bonus for any age group, really, being uncondescending, full of helpful editorial comment, biographical information, local history, and tips for getting the most out of the art between its pages. Richly inclusive, the text reflects the wide spectrum of people, livelihoods, dreams, cultures, and heritages of a North Carolina legacy.

Cassedy, Sylvia. *In Your Own Words: A Beginner's Guide to Writing.* Rev. ed. 219 p. $13.89. Crowell, 1990. (ISBN 0-690-04823-8) Grades 6-9

A revised edition of Cassedy's earlier text, the book begins with the importance of being a good observer and engaging the senses, then moves into a discussion of various writing forms, including myth, hero/tall tales, fantasy, essays, school reports, and poetry. Divided into three sections, "How to Begin," "Prose," and "Poetry," the text is strong on poetry and on letter writing. Less able are discussions of student reports and fiction writing, in which Cassedy advocates, respectively, an initial search of encyclopedias for information--a tired formula--and states categorically that a writer "must decide ahead of time where to begin a story and where to end it." Aside from these rather anti-creative approaches, the contents are quite beguiling. Index.

Chandra, Deborah. *Balloons and Other Poems.* 39 p. $12.95. Farrar, 1990. (ISBN 0-374-30509-9) Grades 3-6

Vivid, insightful images characterize these twenty-four high-quality poems about ordinary things and circumstances which are given fresh, surprising dimensions in the hands of this skillful, sensitive poet. Leslie Bowman's photographic, black-and-white drawings are softly shaded complements to Chandra's mind-expanding verse. A lovely book for independent reading and poetry units.

Crisman, Ruth. *Hot off the Press: Getting the News into Print.* 87 p. $12.95. Lerner Pubns., 1991. (ISBN 0-8225-1625-X) Grades 4-9

Interesting and informative, this comprehensive book about newspapers contains chapters on the history of journalism and publishing, contents of newspapers, production and delivery, job descriptions, and future trends. Utilizing conversational narrative, black-and-white photography, and a detailed description of the *Los Angeles Times*, Crisman's useful text provides straightforward material for students' reports, career exploration, social studies units on media influence, and journalism classes. Bibliography, glossary, index.

Dakos, Kalli. *If You're Not Here, Please Raise Your Hand: Poems about School.* 60 p. $12.95. Four Winds, 1990. (ISBN 0-02-725581-6) Grades 3-5

A high-interest collection of story poems about a variety of elementary school experiences, this slender, illustrated volume ranges in tone from the improbable (a little girl drinks so much at the water fountain that she floats out the door) to the poignant (a friend's death). Brian Karas's black-and-white drawings of charming, moon-faced children complement Kalli Dakos's rhymed and free verse. An enjoyable book for reading aloud, pleasure reading, and creative writing classes.

Durell, Ann, and Marilyn Sachs, eds. *The Big Book for Peace.* 120 p. $15.95. Dutton, 1990. (ISBN 0-525-44605-2) Grades K-6

A powerful collection of stories, poems, songs, and pictures by thirty-four award-winning authors and illustrators of children's books, this important volume includes work by Lloyd Alexander, Maurice Sendak, Milton Meltzer, Steven Kellogg, and Lois Lowry on the issues of peace, conflict, war, and resolution. Its size, use of humor and examples from children's daily lives, high-quality writing and artwork, and large print make this book accessible to a variety of grade and reading levels. An excellent, thought-provoking balance to currently popular war-related selections.

Eliot, T. S. *Mr. Mistoffelees with Mungojerrie and Rumpelteazer.* unp. $13.95. Farrar, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-256230-3) Grades 3-12

Errol Le Cain has illustrated two poems from T. S. Eliot's *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (source of the musical *Cats*!) in witty, elegantly stylized color drawings of those mysterious and independent felines, Mr. Mistoffelees and the wonderfully daring, "highly efficient cat-burglars," Mungojerrie and Rumpelteazer. These are two entrancing cat tributes, fit for young and old and enhanced by Le Cain's marvelous eye for the impish creatures. Fine poetry and a stimulus to both observing and recording the active lives of our pets.

Elledge, Scott, ed. *Wider Than the Sky: Poems to Grow Up With.* 358 p. $19.89. HarperCollins, 1990. (ISBN 0-06-021787-1) Grades 5-10

In an inviting preface, Scott Elledge confides that he collected these poems originally for an anthology to give his ten-year-old niece, a point borne out by the child-appealing, lyrical, light nature of most of these familiar titles. Authors include Keats, Dickinson, Lewis Carroll, Kipling, Alice Walker, E. B. White, Gwendolyn Brooks, Langston Hughes, and A. R. Ammons, among many. It's a traditional collection rather than a thematic anthology or one aimed at a particular type of young reader. Elledge's preface is a most helpful, condensed introduction, disarming in its openness and beckoning for any age. Concluding notes explain words or events in several poems that may puzzle readers. Index.

Fatchen, Max. *The Country Mail Is Coming: Poems From Down Under.* 64 p. $13.95. Little, 1990. (ISBN 0-316-27493-3) Grades 3-5

A whimsical collection of poems (in the spirit of Shel Silverstein) celebrates summer mail, bedtime, baths, birds, and other aspects of leisurely country living as well as fanciful topics like dinosaurs,

dragons, and adult folly. The naivete of the verses will appeal to young children, and older readers will enjoy the refreshing perspectives. These are definitely Australian in flavor but universal in appeal. Humorously illustrated in pen and ink by Catharine O'Neill.

Frender, Gloria. *Learning to Learn: Strengthening Study Skills and Brain Power.* 240 p. $14.95 paper. Incentive Pubns., 1990. (ISBN 0-86530-141-7) (Available from I.E.S.S.) Grades 4-8

A survival manual for students, this guide/workbook helps all levels of elementary and middle-grade boys and girls get a grip on their school assignments, from organizing study tools and managing time to the highly specific skills of note-taking, memorizing, problem-solving, recognizing and avoiding memory traps, and preparing for tests, including tips for multiple-choice, true-false, matching, fill-in-the-blank, number, and essay tests. This is *not* a beat-the-system handbook but a genuinely valuable hands-on guide to strengthening skills and improving concentration and attitude. An "untalky" collection of practical hints, methods, tips, and procedures covering the gamut of school curricula--and discouraging cop-outs and whining. It gets down to business!

Graham-Barber, Lynda. *Mushy! The Complete Book of Valentine Words.* 122 p. $13.95. Bradbury Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-02-736941-2) Grades 4-9

A conversational, well-researched compendium, this informative volume contains historical information, amusing facts, legendary hearsay, and etymology concerning words associated with Valentine's Day. Arranged by topic but not alphabetically, the text is illustrated by lighthearted black-and-white cartoons. Suitable for student reports, vocabulary lessons, and browsing. Timeline chronology, bibliography, index.

***The HBJ Student Thesaurus.* 312 p. $14.95. Harcourt, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-232880-7) Grades 3-6**

Arranged alphabetically with illustrations, *The HBJ Student Thesaurus* presents more than 800 main entries accompanied by synonyms. Entry words and two to five synonyms are listed in bold face across one line above the indented body of the entry. Entries include part of speech, a definition, each bold-faced synonym used in a sample sentence, usage tips or special distinctions when needed, and antonyms for some words. Synonyms are indexed. Varied, descriptive sentences reflect shades or degrees of meaning as well as connotations (suggesting legal, informal, scientific, or historical contexts, for example). Appearing on every other page, color drawings create an assortment of impressions (humorous, realistic, reflective) and typically provide a visual distinction between two synonyms (juxtaposing, for example, Rosa, who has time to "pack" her suitcase with Maria who has to "cram" hers full). Frequent use of this tool (perhaps in writing, reading activities, or simply for browsing), particularly when guided by word-loving teachers, can broaden vocabulary, extend background knowledge, and heighten awareness of language in multiple contexts.

Heller, Ruth. *Merry-Go-Round: A Book About Nouns.* unp. $13.95. G&D, 1990. (ISBN 0-448-40085-5) Grades K-5

Author/illustrator Ruth Heller presents all there is to know about nouns in a splendid book with spectacular color illustrations. Rhyming text in large print with nouns bolded explains common and proper, concrete and abstract, compound and collective, plural and possessive nouns and even includes a final section of determiners. Breathtaking full-color paintings depict a wide range of nouns, from the simple (watches, witches) to the unusual (persimmons, chivalry). A language teacher's dream-come-true.

Hubbell, Patricia. *A Grass Green Gallop.* 48 p. $14.95. Atheneum, 1990. (ISBN 0-689-31604-6) Grades 3-6

Poet Patricia Hubbell uses a variety of poetic forms, rhythms, and rhymes to celebrate horses and horsemanship in this high-interest collection of thirty-one poems. Ronald Himler's attractive watercolors and charcoal drawings are a graceful complement to Hubbell's depictions of riding, breeds, horse shows, and character studies. For horse lovers and others, this slender volume is a good supplement for poetry units featuring variations on a single theme.

Janeczko, Paul B., sel. *The Place My Words Are Looking For: What Poets Say About and Through Their Work.* 150 p. $13.95. Bradbury Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-02-747671-5) Grades 5-9

This fresh, varied selection of poems and comments on writing and inspiration by thirty-nine contemporary U. S. poets (e.g., Cynthia Rylant, X. J. Kennedy, Gwendolyn Brooks) focuses on process as well as product. These high-interest, high-quality works and brief, provocative essays are accompanied by friendly, black-and-white photographs of each poet. A fantastic text for poetry units and creative writing classes!

Kennedy, X. J. *Fresh Brats.* 44 p. $12.95. McElderry Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-689-50499-3) Grades 3-6

As mischievously suggested by its title, X. J. Kennedy's *Fresh Brats* adds forty-four short, quirky, rhyming portraits to his poetic gallery of devilish delinquents begun in the collection *Brats*. An irreverent antidote to children's preconceived notions about poetry, Kennedy's verses feature zany ideas, surprising twists in closing lines, and the kind of catastrophic humor that children love. James Watts's soft pencil drawings comically depict several bratty kids in action. Its small size, easy-to-imitate poems and impertinent humor make this title especially attractive for reluctant readers and writers.

Kennedy, X. J. *The Kite That Braved Old Orchard Beach: Year-Round Poems for Young People.* 85 p. $12.95. McElderry Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-689-50507-8) Grades 4-7

A collection of sixty-two realistic verses, this slender volume brims with Kennedy's poetic mastery of the funny and touching voices of children and their observations, which are grouped according to theme (e.g., "Family," "Not So Ordinary Things," "Times of Year"). Marian Young's black-and-white, line and wash illustrations quietly introduce each chapter by depicting a characteristic selection. Filled with fine teaching examples of how sound and image mix with idea, Kennedy's poems also make good pleasure reading.

Lear, Edward. *The Nonsense Poems of Edward Lear*. 127 p. $18.95. Clarion Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-395-57001-8) Grades PreK-5

Illustrations by celebrated early twentieth-century artist Leslie Brooke are the attraction of this collection of Edward Lear's nonsense poems. Brooke's deft pen and wicked humor are superb complements for Lear's well-crafted wordplay. A nostalgic, visual treat, this lovely volume could supplement a discussion about illustrating creative writing in general and Lear's work in particular. (See also Jan Brett's version of *The Owl and the Pussycat* and Jill Newton's work in *Of Pelicans and Pussycats* as well as Lear's own caricatures). Index of titles and first lines.

Lear, Edward. *Of Pelicans and Pussycats: Poems and Limericks*. unp. $12.95. Dial Bks. Young, 1990. (ISBN 0-8037-0728-2) Grades K-5

Illustrator Jill Newton's bold, batik-like watercolors are a striking visual complement to this collection of seven narrative poems and six limericks by Edward Lear. An attractive volume to introduce young readers to the joys of Lear's nonsense, *Of Pelicans and Pussycats* is also useful for arts education classes and pleasure reading. Newton's endpapers also interpret Lear's nonsense botany, which could have application in science units on plants.

Lewis, Claudia. *Up in the Mountains and Other Poems of Long Ago*. 55 p. $13.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-023812-7) Grades 2-6

Through vivid images and first-person narration, Claudia Lewis creates an exuberant portrait in verse of her childhood in a small Oregon town. Joel Fontaine's blurred, shaded pencil drawings place the time at the turn of the century, but contemporary children will easily recognize many timeless events and emotions in these sixteen narrative poems (e.g., the arrival of a new baby, parents' quarrels, household chores). A lovely supplement for social studies units about Oregon and early twentieth-century life as well as inspiration for creative writing and artwork.

Lindbergh, Reeve. *Johnny Appleseed*. unp. $14.45. Little, 1990. (ISBN 0-316-52618-5) Grades 2-5

Kathy Jakobsen has provided fabulous folk-art paintings to illustrate this simple poem about the life and travels of John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed. Lindbergh's verses are framed by quilt-like mosaics containing at least six vignettes apiece. Exquisite single- and double-page primitive paintings depict Chapman's visits early and late in life to Hannah Goodwin's farm and orchards as well as his years in the wilderness. Colorful endpapers contain a map of six states he traveled, planting seeds along the way. A one-page biography concludes the text. Recommended for arts education, language arts, and social studies classes as well as discussions on how the American landscape has changed during its history.

Livingston, Myra Cohn, sel. *If the Owl Calls Again: A Collection of Owl Poems*. 114 p. $13.95. McElderry Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-689-50501-9) Grades 5-12

Organized by five rhyming chapter headings, this international anthology of seventy-eight poems explores a broad range of emotions and perspectives regarding the charismatic owl. Antonio Frasconi's stark, black-and-white woodcuts complement the age-old fascination with these nocturnal creatures, on which diverse poets from Shakespeare to Prelutsky expound here. Inclusion of several Native American chants emphasizes the owl's cultural importance, which makes this collection useful for social studies classes. An excellent read-aloud and supplement for teaching young poets sonorous effects in poetry. Author, translator, title, and first line indexes.

Livingston, Myra Cohn. *Poem-Making: Ways to Begin Writing Poetry*. 162 p. $15.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-024020-2) Grades 4-9

Using straightforward prose and first-class examples ranging from Mother Goose to Robert Frost, poet and teacher Myra Cohn Livingston introduces readers to the mechanics and terminology of writing poems. Chapters discuss voice, sound, rhyme, rhythm and meter, figures of speech, and various forms. A useful, thought-provoking text, *Poem-Making* is a detailed mini-course full of writing and discussion prompts to supplement poetry units. Index.

Livingston, Myra Cohn, sel. *Poems for Brothers, Poems for Sisters*. 32 p. $12.95. Holiday, 1991. (ISBN 0-8234-0861-2) Grades 3-5

A slender sequel to Livingston's previous collections of poetry about mothers, fathers, and grandmothers, this high-quality volume of eighteen poems about brothers and sisters features a wide range of mood and poet (e.g., Lewis Carroll, Betsy Hearne, X. J. Kennedy). Jean Zallinger's realistic, black-and-white pencil illustrations add universality to this poetic picture book by softly depicting children from various multicultural backgrounds. An engaging text to use when teaching young writers how poetry can describe relationships, feelings, people, and events.

Livingston, Myra Cohn, sel. *Poems for Grandmothers*. 32 p. $12.95. Holiday, 1990. (ISBN 0-8234-0830-2) Grades 3-6

Myra Cohn Livingston continues her series of anthologies focusing on various family members with this collection of eighteen quality poems about grandmothers. Commissioned works by the likes of Lucille Clifton, Margaret Walker, and X. J. Kennedy offer young readers a verbal testament to the spectrum of female experience. Patricia Cullen-Clark's soft pencil sketches are graceful, realistic depictions, enhancing the poems rather than competing with the words for attention. Recommended for language arts, ethnic studies, and writing stimulation, this special book would prompt children to think about and to define themselves in connection with their heritage as well as to write about relationships with other family members.

Jack London. *The Call of the Wild*. 102 p. $8.50 paper. Vintage Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-679-72535-0) (Available from Random) Grades 6-8

One of Vintage Books' handsome paperback editions, *The Call of the Wild* is enhanced by E. L. Doctorow's fine,

sensitive introduction to Jack London and his work. Denied affection by his mother and rejected by his biological father, London, early on, modeled himself after the lone wolf image. "To be a wolf was to be an epic orphan of the human race," Doctorow speculates in assessing the traumatic effect of London's bleak childhood on his art. An orphan child raised by wolves, Mowgli of *The Jungle Book* by Kipling became for London a symbolic extension of himself and provided the spiritual stuff of his best works. Supplementing the text are maps, endnotes, and a Jack London chronology.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. *Paul Revere's Ride*. unp. $14.95. Dutton, 1990. (ISBN 0-525-44610-9) Grades 2-5

In this old chestnut refurbished by Ted Rand's handsome watercolors, Paul Revere gallops just as courageously across the pages as he did in 1861 when Longfellow first published this narrative poem about the Revolutionary War event. Rand provides realistic moonlit scenes aplenty for this picture book rendition of the oft-repeated verses. A page of concluding information on the ride and a map (on the endpapers) of the route taken by Revere and fellow patriots Dawes and Prescott enhance the social studies applications of this blend of history, art, and poetry.

McInerney, Claire. *Tracking the Facts: How to Develop Research Skills.* (*Study Skills Books*) 64 p. $9.95. Lerner Pubns., 1990. (ISBN 0-8225-2426-0) Grades 5-9

Easy to read and up-to-date, *Tracking the Facts* provides a step-by-step overview of the research process from choosing and narrowing a topic to gathering information through interviews, primary and secondary sources, and database searches, to organizing and writing up results in a research paper. Clear, straightforward prose, Harry Pulver's two-color cartoons, important words in bold print, and ample charts and lists make this information-packed text accessible for students at a variety of grade and ability levels. A fine supplement for teaching the research paper. Research timeline, bibliography, index.

Nichols, Grace. *Come on into My Tropical Garden: Poems for Children.* 39 p. $10.89. Lippincott, 1990. (ISBN 0-397-32349-2) Grades 3-5

The Caribbean supplies the topic and the aura of this collection of poems featuring children, island scenes and activities, and universal feelings. Some poems speak in the voice of a child about grandmothers, alligators, and staying up late listening to ghost ("jumbie") stories. Others refer to nature--the sun is a yellow spider weaving her way across the sky "with her bright old fingers," red crabs dance "their scuttle-foot dance / on the mud-packed beach." Shaded pencil drawings are by Caroline Binch. A short but evocative presentation, rich with island images and dialect.

Phillips, Louis. *Loose Leaf: The Wackiest School Notebook Yet.* 40 p. $11.95. Atheneum, 1990. (ISBN 0-689-31437-X) Grades 6-9

Although its cover is deceptively juvenile, this collection of riddles, tongue twisters, wacky definitions, and other humorous wordplay is filled with challenging, imaginative writing organized by subject heading (e.g., geography, math and science). Joseph Farris's clever black-and-white cartoons often augment meaning while retaining a simple, youthful appeal. Educational and entertaining, this funny book should stimulate thinking about language, attract reluctant readers, enrich student journals and notebooks, and provide creative ideas for teaching and learning vocabulary and other information in the content areas.

Seabrooke, Brenda. *Judy Scuppernong.* 64 p. $12.95. Cobblehill Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-525-65038-5) Grades 5-9

Through thirty-one episodic, free-verse poems narrated in first person and based on childhood experiences, Brenda Seabrooke recalls in vivid, atmospheric detail a 1950s, small-town Georgia summer and the young girl whose arrival adds excitement to three friends' quiet, uneventful lives. Ted Lewin's black-and-white, snapshot-style illustrations offer unusual, suggestive perspectives to setting and events, including specific details with only parts of characters' bodies. A unique, coming-of-age portrait, this slender volume is a wonderful example for creative writing units on the power of poetry to tell a story and to consider identifiable contemporary issues (alcohol abuse, absentee fathers, harmful effects of gossip, children assuming adult roles).

Smith, William Jay. *Laughing Time: Collected Nonsense.* Rev. ed. 164 p. $12.95. Farrar, 1990. (ISBN 0-374-34366-7) Grades 3-6

Illustrated with humorously grotesque pen-and-ink drawings by Fernando Krahn, this volume of witty verses will entertain a wide spectrum of readers who resist traditional poetry. Divided into such sections as "Laughing Time," "Boy Blue's Beasts," and "A Nuthatch of Nonsense Birds," the poems appeal through their surprises, incongruities, and idiosyncrasies, along with varied rhythms and rhymes. Fun for browsing, reading aloud, and/or performance and interpretation.

Terban, Marvin. *Hey, Hay! A Wagonful of Funny Homonym Riddles.* 64 p. $13.95. Clarion Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-395-54431-9) Grades 4-7

Terban's humorous collection of puns and riddles based on homonyms contains six sections of wry wordplay organized according to construction and level of difficulty. Zany black-and-white cartoons by Kevin Hawkes amplify the text as it progresses from simple sound-alike pairs to complex triplet sentences and concludes with four-word riddle sentences and "HomoNames." Answers to riddles appear at the end of each chapter. A challenging as well as entertaining mental treat, Terban's book presents vocabulary and language art in a surprising, delightful way which should appeal to both reluctant and avid readers. Alphabetical list of homonyms, bibliography.

Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden.* Adapted by Steve Lowe. unp. $14.95. Philomel Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-399-22153-0) Grades 3-6

Excerpts in this illustrated adaptation of Thoreau's *Walden* focus mainly on his enjoyment of the seasons, appreciation of birds and other animals, and desire for

solitude. Delicate gradations of color contrast the rough-edged lines that form the subjects in Robert Sabuda's startling, linoleum-cut illustrations, an appropriate mirror of the roughness of Thoreau's primitive lifestyle while living at Walden versus his delicate sensitivity. A good choice for language arts projects, journal teaching, nature study, and biography hunt. Biographical introduction.

Yolen, Jane. *Bird Watch: A Book of Poems.* unp. $15.95. Philomel Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-399-21612-X) Grades 3-6

Double-page watercolors are background for poems about a variety of birds, including the cardinal, robin, woodpecker, and winter finch. Yolen's knowledge and observations of the birds' sounds, features, and activities animate the details in each vivid little poem, which is simultaneously lighthearted and serious. Ted Lewin's artwork is a clear asset to these varying styles of poems--free verse, some rhyming. A cast of birds appearing in the text with notes on their breed concludes the collection. Here is a useful source for integrating science and poetry.

***Zaner-Bloser Independent Readers.* 3 titles each 63 p. each $10.95. Zaner-Bloser, 1990. Grades 4-8**
***Fun, Facts, & Fiction: A Sampler of Stories* (ISBN 0-88309-549-1). *Rescue in the Canyon and Other Stories of Life in America* (ISBN 0-88309-526-2). *The Riddle in the Backyard and Other Mysteries* (ISBN 0-88309-525-4).**

These three titles are from a series of twenty-five books on high-interest topics presented in short segments of visually appealing content. Each book contains eighteen short reading passages, a glossary, and a "Check Yourself" provision at the back which answers comprehension questions posed with each reading. Colorful photographs, graphics, timelines, and information boxes/ circles illustrate margins and provide insets, creating for independent readers the sense of an active participant encouraging them in their assignment. These are not necessarily high-interest/low-vocabulary materials but could serve as such with Grades 7-8. Designed as self-contained units for students to explore independently of teacher and classmates, these titles function well as such.

GRADES 9-12

Books

Agard, John, comp. *Life Doesn't Frighten Me At All.* 96 p. $14.95. H. Holt & Co., 1990. (ISBN 0-8050-1237-0) Grades 7-12

Written for teenagers "with an allergy for poetry," this multicultural collection of eighty-five poems includes poets who vary in age from ten to sixty-six and in notoriety from W. B. Yeats to Attilla the Stockbroker. Changing typeface and energetic black-and-white drawings and collages add dimension to this volume's challenging wordplay, musical dialects, and colloquial voices. Organized into six chapters (e.g., "Body Talk," "The Lesson"), Agard's anthology includes interesting personal notes about these writers and identifies their country of origin. A highly accessible and often irreverent text for pleasure reading and poetry units, it does contain occasional curse words and suggestive language. Concluding poets' comments on poetry, indexes to poets and first lines.

Berry, James. *When I Dance.* 120 p. $15.95. Harcourt, 1991. (ISBN 0-15-295568-2) Grades 6-12

Highly respected poet James Berry draws in this collection on life experiences in Britain and the Caribbean islands, especially inner-city living, to produce verse capturing wit, poignance, loneliness, separation, love, ethnicity, prejudice, belonging, and family feelings. Most poems are first-person perspectives, giving them an authority and immediacy reinforced by Berry's fresh, unusual imagery. Poems about nature appreciation and personal development mix easily with quixotic, happy capers, all sharing finally in the expression of contentment or pride in one's identity.

Boyce, Charles. *Shakespeare A to Z: The Essential Reference to His Plays, His Poems, His Life and Times, and More.* 742 p. $45. Facts on File, 1990. (ISBN 0-8160-1805-7) Grades 9-12

From Aaron (villain in *Titus Andronicus*) to Zeffirelli (filmmaker of 1960s productions of Shakespearean plays), this hefty tome covers the big and the little of Shakespearean work and lore as well as peripheral information helpful to understanding their context. Alphabetized entries are generally concise but not spare, lucid and authoritative, and cross-reference content so fully that an expedition into, say, "quarto" will lead to "folio," which leads to "foul papers," "fair papers," etc. An immeasurably helpful reference for teachers and students studying Shakespeare, his plays, sonnets, style, and legacy. Bibliography and appendix.

Cather, Willa. *The Troll Garden and Selected Stories.* (*Bantam Classics*) 229 p. $3.50 paper. Bantam, 1990. (ISBN 0-553-21385-7) Grades 10-12

Modern fiction writer, Rita Mae Brown of *Rubyfruit Jungle* and *Bingo* fame, has written a wise introduction to Willa Cather's stories of stoic strength and soul secrets, often featuring women liberated or longing to be. As in "The Garden Lodge," these stories plumb the fantasies of "women of the world," "sisters of charity," "overworked shopgirls, "withered women" who "had taken doctorate degrees," and business-women and women of affairs--"Amazons who dwelt apart from men in the stony fastnesses of apartment houses." These are also the stories of complex men persevering, or not, against the demands of their environment and the inclinations of their character. A text to augment collections for gifted English students and writers involved in independent study.

Crane, Stephen. *The Red Badge of Courage.* 143 p. $8.50 paper. Vintage Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-679-73223-3) (Available from Random) Grade 11

The classic war story appears in an excellent paperback edition introduced by Robert Stone, with text selected (and notes on the text) by J. C. Levenson, all of which enriches this presentation of Crane's great masterpiece of a frightened young Union soldier on the Civil War battlefield. Stone's introduction to the novel and to Crane is especially sensitive and thorough, setting the mood for the work and providing engrossing historical background on both Crane and the war. A fully annotated chronology appended to the text is a mini-biography in itself. Good binding, stronger than most paperbacks.

Dickens, Charles. *Oliver Twist.* (*Bantam Classics*) 424 p. $2.50 paper. Bantam. (ISBN 0-553-21102-1) Grades 9-12

The American author, scholar, and critic, Irving Howe, introduces this edition of Dickens' famous saga of the London waif saved finally by his own innocence from the perils of London's great, sprawling underworld and its colorful inhabitants--Fagin, the Artful Dodger, Mr. Fang, Kags. Howe's extensive and brilliant introduction updates the novel as a social tract still on the mark--maybe even more so--in light of the Greedy Eighties and renewed scorn for "welfare chiselers." Also presented here is Charles Dickens' own impassioned defense of the book in an 1867 preface in which he responds to middle-class protests that villains were not so mean nor paupers so destitute as he has portrayed them. Sound familiar, anybody?

Dickens, Charles. *A Tale of Two Cities.* (*Vintage Classics*) 380 p. $7.95 paper. Vintage Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-679-72965-8) (Available from Random) Grades 9-12

Harvard scholar Simon Schama introduces this nicely bound paperback edition of Dickens' epic novel of the French Revolution, that "best of times" and "worst of times" symbolized by the "retributive instrument" of it all, the guillotine. This particular paperback, sturdy and attractive, will see the story through many circulations.

Gallo, Donald R., ed. *Center Stage: One-Act Plays for Teenage Readers and Actors.* 362 p. $16.89. HarperCollins, 1990. (ISBN 0-06-022171-2) Grades 8-12

Written especially for this anthology by award-winning authors of young adult fiction (e.g., Ouida Sebestyen, Walter Dean Myers, Jean Davies Okimoto), these ten one-acts center on teens and their problems, utilizing humor and pathos, mystery and allegory to frame the action. Gallo follows each play with an interesting "about the author" section, which includes information about any theatrical experience the playwright may have had as well as biographical material. As many of these plays are first efforts at playwrighting, stage directions and background notes are limited, relying on YA authors' facility with dialogue to carry the story. A one-of-a-kind collection, *Center Stage* is a useful resource for adviser/advisee, language arts, and drama programs.

Gordon, Ruth, sel. *Time Is the Longest Distance: An Anthology of Poems.* 74 p. $13.89. HarperCollins, 1991. (ISBN 0-06-022424-X) Grades 7-12

Loosely organized by the time of day, this sensitive, multicultural anthology of sixty-one poems about time in a variety of measures and meanings ranges in perspective from ancient to modern. Useful notes identify nationalities or cultures and lifetimes for poets such as Boris Pasternak, Emily Dickinson, and Jorge Luis Borges. A thought-provoking, high-quality collection to supplement poetry units illustrating variations on a single theme. Author, title, and first line indexes.

Guiley, Rosemary Ellen. *Career Opportunities for Writers.* 2nd ed. 230 p. $27.50. Facts on File, 1991. (ISBN 0-8160-2400-6) Grades 9-12

Like other *Career Opportunities* books, this revised second edition is a comprehensive career guide and reference which identifies and describes nearly 100 jobs, ranging from proofreader to government affairs specialist. Eight sections categorize a diverse array of entry and middle-level positions described in a career profile/chart/narrative format which details such basic information as job responsibilities, educational qualification, salary range, employment prospects, and potential for advancement. Concluding appendices contain lists and addresses of degree and nondegree programs, unions and trade associations, major trade periodicals, a bibliography, and index. A fine overview of employment possibilities, this informative volume provides teachers, guidance counselors, and students with sufficient information on each career to understand how it functions and how to prepare for it.

Harris, Raymond. *Best-Selling Chapters, Advanced Level: Chapters from Novels for Teaching Literature and Developing Comprehension.* 3rd ed. 490 p. $15 (ISBN 0-89061-706-6). $12 paper (ISBN 0-89061-702-3). Jamestown Pubs., 1990. Grades 9-12

Chapters from famous novels serve to help students learn literary and writing concepts such as setting, point of view, tone, mood, and theme. Among twelve novels selected are *Wuthering Heights* and *Roots* (point of view), *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (theme), *Ragtime* (setting), and *Animal Farm* (allegory). Demonstrator chapters contain an introduction to the whole novel, a chapter reprint, the literary lesson, skill-oriented comprehension questions, a discussion guide, and suggested writing exercises. Very thorough, the units on these novels are strong models for generating class discussion, group projects, and a sense of the components of fiction working in harmony. An advantage of the units is the adaptability of the selections to more than their avowed purpose (e.g., *Huck Finn* illustrates point of view, setting, and other novel elements in addition to theme). And they can whet appetites for reading the whole novel.

Harris, Raymond. *Best Short Stories, Advanced Level: Short Stories for Teaching Literature and Developing Comprehension.* 2nd ed. 476 p. $15 (ISBN 0-89061-705-8). $12 paper (ISBN 0-89061-701-5). Jamestown Pubs., 1990. Grades 9-12

Twelve famous short stories, richly varied and representative, illustrate important elements of short fiction--setting, point of view, character, conflict, plot, use of language, and more. These are sophisticated selections, complex and powerful in their achievement. Black American voices (Alice Walker, James Baldwin) and Southern experiences (O'Connor's "Revelation," Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily," Capote's "A Christmas Memory") are especially well represented. Each unit introduces the story, reprints it and follows it with analysis, comprehension questions and exercises, and writing assignments. These models lend themselves to many uses, and,

ideally, they will serve to deepen literary awareness and sharpen skills transferable to all subsequent reading.

Hearne, Betsy. *Polaroid and Other Poems of View.* 68 p. $12.95. McElderry Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-689-50530-2) Grades 6-12

A rare, beautiful book of forty-two contemporary poems, this collection features thought-provoking, well-crafted poetry about sights and insights of all kinds. Peter Kiar's dramatic, carefully composed, black-and-white photographs accentuate the visual aspect of Hearne's compositions. Several selections contain explanatory notes about literary allusions used, providing a springboard for discussion on writer's inspiration. A fresh, intelligent collection.

Hellweg, Paul, ed. *The Facts on File Student's Thesaurus.* 287 p. $24.95. Facts on File, 1991. (ISBN 0-8160-1634-8) Grades 6-12

With over 5,000 entries, this readable, easy-on-the-eyes reference includes a valuable extra for students--a demonstration sentence illustrating the word's usage accurately and unpretentiously. Additionally, each entry identifies the part of speech, a number of synonyms, and several antonyms where appropriate. When a word has more than one meaning, synonyms and antonyms for each definition are given along with demonstrative sentences. Arranged alphabetically with the first and last word of each page keyed to the upper righthand corner, entries are simple to locate. Good, dark print, uncrowded columns, and a manageable book that stays open at the page consulted will make this resource an instant hit.

Janecsko, Paul B, sel. *Preposterous: Poems of Youth.* 134 p. $14.99. Orchard Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-531-08501-5) Grades 7-12

Continuing a trend to connect poetry with young adult lives, this Janecsko anthology features 108 poems by contemporary writers (e.g., Fred Chappell, Anne Sexton, Langston Hughes) and focuses on the adolescent problems and concerns of being a teenager. Dominated by male voices, these poems are high-quality, high-interest works focusing seriously on easily identifiable issues (school, sex, friendship) with only an occasional lighthearted perspective. An excellent supplement for creative writing classes and recreational reading. Some cursing and suggestive language.

Joyce, James. *Dubliners.* (*Bantam Classics*) 182 p. $3.95 paper. Bantam, 1990. (ISBN 0-553-21380-6) Grades 10-12

Brenda Maddox, author of *Nora: The Real Life of Molly Bloom*, a biography of the wife of James Joyce, introduces this edition of the classic metaphor of Ireland's sad dilemma, Joyce's fifteen stories poignantly rendering the Irish compulsion to venerate the dead and negate the living. Ms. Maddox's insightful comments on Joyce's obvious and latent intensions acknowledge feminist and deconstructionist readings, all intelligently and wisely presented within the framework of Joyce's own recorded observations about *Dubliners* during the book's troubling prepublication period. This edition will enrich independent study assignments for academically strong English students.

Klausner, Janet. *Talk About English: How Words Travel and Change.* 198 p. $14.89. Crowell, 1990. (ISBN 0-690-04833-5) Grades 7-12

Irresistible reading for any students who love words and etymology and for teachers who incorporate origin and context in vocabulary study, this title discusses the development of the English language from its earliest beginnings to modern English, showing how individual words evolved from both historical events and usage. Written in conversational, narrative style, the text traces changes in spoken and written English from Old English through Chaucer and Shakespeare up to our time, with emphasis on derivations of plant and animal names, on eponyms, and on neologisms and "restless words." Unlike some titles for this age group, this one is user-friendly, witty, and full of substance in memorable contexts showing by example what it is also teaching. Black-and-white illustrations, suggested reading list, index.

McCullough, Frances, sel. *Earth, Air, Fire & Water.* Rev. ed. 140 p. $13.89. HarperCollins, 1989. (ISBN 0-06-024208-6) Grades 9-12

A revised, pared-down edition of McCullough's 1971 collection, this volume of 125 high-quality poems contains pieces by contemporary Americans (e.g., Leroi Jones, Sylvia Plath, and Richard Brautigan) along with multicultural poems in translation. No apparent format organizes this diverse selection of life experiences from a poet's perspective. Readers encounter a broad range of observations from the humorous to the thought-provoking. Fine writing to supplement poetry units.

Margulies, Stuart. *Work Force Literacy Skills for Jobs 2000. Books 1 and 2.* 2 workbooks, 2 teacher's guides with answer keys each $6.55 paper. Ed. Design Inc., 1990. Grades 7-12
***Book 1.* 80 p. (ISBN 0-87694-329-6).**
***Book 2.* 112 p. (ISBN 0-87694-330-X).**

Flexible workbooks designed for individual or group use, this series addresses the importance of on-the-job communication skills in brief discussions followed by reinforcement exercises. *Book 1* focuses on basic information and common sense--e.g., computer terminology, telephone message formats, copy machine techniques, instruction manual comprehension. *Book 2* presents more complex topics--figuring out meanings, scanning for specific information, working with maps, diagrams, and catalogs, and writing letters. Role-playing, business interviews, telephone discussions, and field trips could greatly facilitate the use of these high interest/easy reading texts.

***Random House Webster's College Dictionary.* 1568 p. thumb-indexed $20. Random, 1991. (ISBN 0-679-40100-8) Grades 9-12**

Created from the database of the *Random House Dictionary of the English Language* (second, unabridged edition), this comprehensive volume of 180,000 entries provides secondary students with a current, easy to use reference tool. The computerized database accessed for its production permits on-line editing for faster addition of new vocabulary than possible with manual lexicography.

Entries present syllabication and pronunciation, part of speech with usage notes, definitions (most common first), etymology (with date range for first use and connection to other languages), and related forms of the word (plurals, word as other parts of speech, etc.). The single alphabetical sequence incorporates biographical and geographical entries; terms pertaining to government, history, and literature; current terms derived from journalism, sports, music, or science; slang; and popular words from spoken English. Well-organized instructions provide graphic cues and examples from the text. Other supplemental sections include a pronunciation guide, a writer's style manual, notes on avoiding sexist language, and an eclectic "Ready reference" index to more than ninety terms or illustrations (e.g., Heimlich maneuver, finding idioms, taxonomic classification, calendar systems). Recommended for secondary schools, *Random House Webster's College Dictionary* is an excellent choice for college-bound students.

Richardson, Robert D., Jr., ed. *Ralph Waldo Emerson: Selected Essays, Lectures, and Poems.* (*Bantam Classics*) 393 p. $3.95 paper. Bantam, 1990. (ISBN 0-553-21388-1) Grade 11

Richardson has assimilated selected early essays and lectures ("The American Scholar," "The Divinity School Address"), the great works (e.g., *Nature, Self-Reliance, The Over-Soul*), two sections of *Representative Men*, later essays ("Woman," "Thoreau"), and poetry. An introduction by Richardson briefly summarizes the biography and develops a strong foundation for understanding Emerson the man and writer/philosopher. Two selections, "Woman" and the letter to President Van Buren regarding the Cherokees' relocation, are of particular interest to modern readers. This Bantam paperback is a good supplementary text for strong students studying Emerson in American literature courses. A note before each selection, putting the work in context, would have helped.

Rylant, Cynthia. *Soda Jerk.* 48 p. $14.99. Orchard Bks., 1990. (ISBN 0-531-08464-7) Grades 7-12

Poignant free verse written from the persona of a young man working as a soda jerk, these poems resonate with a voice reminiscent of those in *Spoon River Anthology* and *Winesburg, Ohio*. Maywell's Drugstore, Cheston, Virginia, provides the setting for the soda jerk's dreams, fantasies, observations of the town and its people and, most of all, of himself. His topics range from Christmastime, rich kids, his divorced parents and stepfather, to sexual aids and his own "white arms / with little brown moles." Peter Catalanotto's richly colored, full-page illustrations include the soda jerk as a secondary figure, thereby clearly supporting the text. A fine collection to serve as a companion to other titles, a stimulation for writing, a model for the importance of voice and observation in composing, and an engaging free read.

Sibley, Brian. *The Land of Narnia: Brian Sibley Explores the World of C.S. Lewis.* 96 p. $19.89. HarperCollins, 1990. (ISBN 0-06-025626-5) Grades 6-12

A book about some books, in effect, this title examines C. S. Lewis' popular world of Narnia explored in a seven-volume chronicle about his magical, made-up kingdom first conceived when Lewis was a small boy. Where Lewis got his ideas, the people and places who fed his Narnia fantasy, the first illustrations for it, and the meaning and appeal of it are subjects of intense focus. Many color and black-and-white illustrations, including archival photographs and drawings by Pauline Baynes, expand the book's loving study. Creative students as well as those who just love a good story will enjoy the contents. Ideally, libraries purchasing this title will also have the Narnia books available.

Strauss, Gwen. *Trail of Stones.* 35 p. $9.99. Knopf, 1990. (ISBN 0-679-90582-0) Grades 9-12

Accompanied by Anthony Browne's eerie, probing, black-and-white drawings, twelve poems in free verse explore the forlornness of Hansel's father, the desperation of Snow White's witch, the loneliness of Rapunzel's blind prince, and the fear of Cinderella waiting to be found by her prince. Not for the faint-hearted, these intriguing and occasionally disturbing portraits forge the inward journeys of well-known fairy tale characters, enriching their often one-dimensional familiarity. An engaging stimulus for thoughtful students to expand their perspectives on the same incident or story.

Washington, Mary Helen, ed. *Memory of Kin: Stories About Family by Black Writers.* 416 p. $12.95 paper. Anchor Bks., 1991. (ISBN 0-385-24783-4) Grades 9-12

This collection of short stories and poems celebrating black Americans' heritage and culture emphasizes family connections--e.g., mothers and daughters, fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, sisters, aunts and uncles, grandparents, the extended family. Among those represented are Andrea Lee, Alice Walker, Lucille Clifton, Langston Hughes, Jamaica Kincaid, James Baldwin, and June Jordan. Mary Helen Washington's introduction and commentary following selections are great aids for student study and class discussion. Here is truly a masterful gathering of superb black American art and an inspiration for young people of all races to recover and preserve, in writing, their family associations.

Wiesinger, Steve. *Good Sentences.* 111 p. $6.55 paper. Teacher's guide with answer key free with order. Ed. Design Inc., 1990. (ISBN 0-87694-321-0) Grades 7-12

It is a workbook, but it's one with a difference--namely, this useful introduction to the art and grammar of sentence construction is uncondescending "straight" talk to students who may very well be quite capable but have some misconceptions or just some blanks in their grammar skills. These guided exercises show and explain the basics of sentence pattern, major punctuation (semicolons, colons, dashes, apostrophes), capitalization, and quoting (although Wiesinger stubbornly uses "quote" for the noun "quotation"). The conclusion ventures into paragraph structure with sound, commonsense advice and examples. Not a book for immature or truly academically weak, nonreading students.

Other Media

I Couldn't Put It Down--Hooked on Books: Classroom Classics. **4 videocassettes each 50 min. each VHS $59. Guidance Assocs., 1990. Grades 9-12**
Classroom Classics I: Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank/A Separate Peace by John Knowles. Classroom Classics II: Lord of the Flies by William Golding/The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. Classroom Classics III: To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee/The Miracle Worker by William Gibson. Classroom Classics IV: Animal Farm by George Orwell/The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.

Four videos comprise a series aimed at getting students "hooked on books" by interspersing film clips of these titles with commentary provided by a spokesman, sitting by an inviting fireplace, who introduces each book and offers helpful insight at key points in the live-action dramatizations. Famous film versions (e.g., the award-winning production of *To Kill a Mockingbird* starring Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch) are carefully edited to emphasize thematic points in each classic and to build suspense and interest in the characters and their fate. Each video stops at a cliff-hanger, inviting viewers to read the book to discover its resolution. Although a "Quick Reference Guide" accompanies each video and provides objectives, a summary of content, discussion questions, and activities, teachers will want to design their own uses for these videos, based on their students' needs. These are quality items with a variety of potential for classroom use.

Standard English: Talking Your Way to the Top. **1 videocassette 30 min. guide VHS free upon request. Reynolds Found., 1991. Grades 9-12**

Eye-opening, informative, and challenging, this thirty-minute videocassette discusses the need to teach young African Americans (indeed, all children) standard, "formal" English and profiles two innovative school programs in North Carolina. At the heart of this film is the principle that students must be "bilingual" (i.e., able to communicate in the language or dialect spoken by family and community as well as in the language of a wider world, especially the business world). Prominent, successful, North Carolina African Americans appear in the film (The Honorable Dan Blue, Speaker of the NC House of Representives and Dr. Prezell Robinson, President of St. Augustine's College) to comment on the importance of speaking standard English and to model appropriate speech. A teaching guide offers guidelines for developing a language program similar to the two depicted as well as questions for class discussion. Useful for supplementing the dialect and speech curriculum goals at the high school level, this is an important video for all K-12 library collections.

PROFESSIONAL

Books

Anthony, Rose Marie. ***Fun with Choral Speaking.*** **138 p. $18.50 paper. Libs. Unl., 1990. (ISBN 0-87287-773-6)**

An enthusiastic guide for teachers (grades PreK-4), librarians, and other adults interested in developing children's love of poetry through choral speaking makes up the content of this easy-to-follow text. Helpful information and directions on benefits and types of poetry appropriate for choral speaking, ways of directing, arranging, and selecting titles, numerous poems that appeal to young children and their voices, as well as paragraphs accompanying each poem that suggest arrangements, emphasis, actions, rhythm, and groupings--all contribute to an excellent resource which lends itself and its fine tips and instructions to other readings and interpretive performances beyond those here. Index.

Atwell, Nancie, ed. ***Coming to Know: Writing to Learn in the Intermediate Grades.*** **233 p. $16 paper. Heinemann, 1990. (ISBN 0-435-08500-X) (Available from I.E.S.S.)**

In this collection of fourteen articles written by teachers of grades 3-8, Nancie Atwell provides documentation of how professional educators are replacing the "encyclopedia-based approach to content area writing" with techniques derived from her innovative writing workshop approach. Of particular interest are two articles by special education teachers, Laura Farnsworth and Nancy Wheeler. Organized into four headings, this challenging text explores topics related to "Research and Reporting," "The Power of Learning Logs," "Reading and Writing," and "Teaching and Learning." Filled with examples of student writing and teacher response, *Coming to Know* is an invaluable resource which concludes with excellent appendices on report writing, learning log prompts, children's literature, and resources for writing and reading to learn. Black-and-white photographs and reproductions of student work illustrate the text. An exciting, thought-provoking book!

Barchers, Suzanne I. ***Creating and Managing the Literate Classroom.*** **187 p. $23 paper. Teacher Ideas Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-87287-705-1) (Available from Libs. Unl.)**

Teachers (K-5) will enjoy this creative divergence from the limitations of basal reader and worksheets. Prepared and tested by a veteran elementary teacher, it offers clear lesson ideas on such topics as using libraries, collecting materials, integrating skills through reading and writing, finding the poet in children, and selecting suitable books. An enlightened philosophy aided by imaginative and detailed lesson models, the text also grants permission to reproduce pages for classroom use. Excellent annotated resources lists, bibliographies, and interdisciplinary unit sample.

Black, Howard and Sandra. ***Organizing Thinking: Graphic Organizers. Book II.*** **341 p. $24.95 paper. Critical Think, 1990. (ISBN 0-89455-355-0)**

Drawing on the latest research in metacognition, this collection of field-tested lessons demonstrates how to use reproducible graphic organizers as a tool "to infuse thinking skills into content learning." Several blackline master graphs introduce this valuable teacher resource for duplication as transparencies and worksheets. Lessons aimed at elementary curriculums incorporate these graphic masters into language arts, writing, social studies, math, science, art, music, and personal problem solving

content areas. However, this technique can be adapted for use in middle and high school classes. A creative, innovative tool to help students organize their thinking and to teach process writing.

Butzow, Carol M. and John W. *Science Through Children's Literature: An Integrated Approach*. 240 p. $25.50 paper. Libs. Unl., 1989. (ISBN 0-87287-667-5) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Highlighting thirty-three children's picture books with science-friendly content, this resource provides for each title a capsule summary, lists of science topics covered and content related words, at least fifteen activities or simple experiments, and additional references. Arranged in broad areas of life science, earth and space, and physical science, the picture books are featured in chapters covering narrower topics such as trees, seeds, insects, volcanoes, rocks, water, shadows, shapes, measurement, and movement. Typical activities involve answering questions, exploration through observation, recipes, experiments, interviews and role-playing, creating or solving math problems, listening to music, or games. This volume is a valuable resource for integrating science and reading in the primary grades. Index.

Calkins, Lucy McCormick, with Shelley Harwayne. *Living Between the Lines*. 315 p. $19.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08538-7) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

At once poetic, personal, and pedagogical, Calkins explains her commitment to "helping children write well." Teachers who make the time to read and live between these lines will find rich inspiration (amidst spaces, dreams, students, and stories that invite them to reflect on their own callings to teach) as well as concrete suggestions for reading and writing workshops, particularly in elementary classrooms. Calkins interweaves teaching anecdotes, personal experience, and reference to writers and books as she covers conferencing, relating life to literature and research, writing memoirs, assessment, making picture books, and teacher-researcher issues. Many examples of student writing and drawing provide bountiful evidence that "by noticing growth, we nurture it." Illustrated with black-and-white photographs. Bibliography.

Carter, Betty, and Richard F. Abrahamson. *From Delight to Wisdom: Nonfiction for Young Adults*. 233 p. $32.50 paper. Oryx Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-89774-555-8)

Designed to help teachers and librarians select, use, and recommend informational books for readers at the middle or secondary levels, this resource alternates chapters on evaluation issues (reader interest, accuracy, content, style, organization, format, and uses) and interviews with authors such as Lee J. Ames, Laurence Pringle, and Daniel and Susan Cohen. Much more than a checklist of criteria or titles, the book provides a substantive, relevant, and readable perspective on the nonfiction domain that can be readily applied in guiding recreational or educational reading and planning resource-based learning activities. Illustrated with examples from titles discussed in text. Bibliography and index.

Clay, Marie M. *Becoming Literate: The Construction of Inner Control*. 366 p. $22.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-86863-279-1) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Clay provides an insightful and detailed chronicle of children's patterns of literacy acquisition, from early print awareness and emergent literacy to beginning reading and the development of concepts about print to independent reading. Instead of advocating a specific program for use with all students, Clay stresses the variability among children as they learn to read, the importance of close interaction with a teacher, and the necessity of internalizing strategies for success in independent reading. Although the book includes some New Zealand-based examples, it remains an excellent resource for assimilating phonics and decoding into more broad-based whole language approaches, for designing primary reading programs, for background on the bases of the Reading Recovery program, and for deeper understanding of early reading failure and success. Bibliography and index.

Collis, Mark, and Joan Dalton. *Becoming Responsible Learners: Strategies for Positive Classroom Management*. 68 p. $10 paper. Heinemann, 1990. (ISBN 0-435-08568-9) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Culled from the classroom practices of fifty successful elementary teachers in Australia, this how-to guide for holistic classroom management discusses strategies for creating a positive environment and developing student responsibility for their learning and behavior as well as for colleague cooperation and problem solving. Focusing particularly on children with behavior problems, the text is a creative blend of philosophy and teacher-tested practice. Anecdotes, black-and-white photography, and examples of teacher-student dialogue illustrate three classroom leadership styles: teacher-controlled, student-controlled, and shared control. Although shared ownership and control is the goal, Collis and Dalton do point out the need to use all three management styles according to student need and classroom situation. Helping children function effectively and behave responsibly is at the heart of this inspiring text, which would be a useful one for advisor/advisee groups and guidance collections.

***Critical Thinking Activities to Improve Writing Skills*. 4 titles each 39-68 p. each $9.95 paper. Critical Think, 1989, 1991.**
***Arguments A-1* (ISBN 0-89455-385-2). *Where-Abouts A-1* (ISBN 0-89455-386-0). *Descriptive Mysteries A-1* (ISBN 0-89455-387-9). *Watcha-Macallits A-1* (ISBN 0-89455-388-7).**

This series of four source books contains activities to improve the descriptive and expository writing skills of students in grades 4-8. *Arguments* presents sixteen written "problems" for students to read and analyze using related questions. Teacher strategies accompany each problem, and students write their analyses in the form of a letter. Lessons in *Descriptive Mysteries* are designed for use with groups of four students in a cooperative learning environment. Each activity contains four illustrations which students use to write a detailed, accurate description "that will enable another student to find a specific object on a page

of similar objects." Progressively difficult activities in *Whatcha-Macallits* ask students to identify characteristics of an object set, then write a clear description which a reader could use to name or draw a member of that set. Working in pairs, students write directions to a hidden goal in *Where-Abouts*. Using a map and two different sets of writer's instructions, the pairs must discriminate differences, classify objects, orientate themselves, and place objects directionally. Reproducible black-and-white illustrations appear in these challenging books to facilitate group use. An impressive series for developing critical thinking and communication skills across content areas.

Daly, Elizabeth, ed. *Monitoring Children's Language Development: Holistic Assessment in the Classroom.* 169 p. $15 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08540-9) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Written by major proponents of whole language teaching in Australia (Brian Cambourne et al.), this collection of fourteen scholarly articles addresses the problems of accountability and assessment and offers "tried and workable" answers. Divided into two sections, one for theory and one for practice, the text discusses a number of important topics related to holistic assessment, including student profiles, goal-based assessment, the *Pathways* document, children with special needs, and reporting progress to parents. Charts, diagrams, student work, and a few black-and-white photographs complement these challenging articles. An interesting inclusion is Dr. David Cohen's "Foreword," which vilifies standardized testing and legislated literacy norms and charges teachers to take an activist stance and to re-educate the public. Filled with research and descriptions of actual classroom practice, *Monitoring Children's Language Development* fills a real need for those North Carolina teachers who are implementing a whole language approach to literacy in their elementary and middle grades classes and who are looking for support and some strategies that others have used successfully.

DeFord, Diane E., et al., eds. *Bridges to Literacy: Learning from Reading Recovery.* 234 p. $17.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08575-1) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

A welcome resource for primary schools committed to early intervention for success in reading, these eleven essays focus on the Reading Recovery program. Several chapters outline the guiding philosophy, encouraging history, and program components of Reading Recovery. Another chapter, ideal for promoting collaboration between media coordinators and teachers, explains text features that support beginning readers and presents a bibliography of children's literature by levels used in Reading Recovery. Other sections pertain to teacher growth and experience with Reading Recovery. Helpful for staff development as well as for media coordinators and teachers.

Denman, Gregory A. *Sit Tight, and I'll Swing You a Tail . . .: Using and Writing Stories with Young People.* 184 p. $17.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08548-4) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

A warm, friendly, and obviously child-loving text offers a bonanza of tips, activities, philosophy, how-to's, and diagrams/drawings to get adults started (and confident) in enticing stories from elementary and middle-grade children. It reviews the art of storytelling, analyzes--with many examples and informal observations--the elements of stories (the lead, characters, setting, etc.), discusses story gaming in the classroom, and outlines the actual writing process. Resources, strategies, activities, and an index of stories and authors conclude the book. A user-friendly text, this one boosts the morale of the adult/teacher at the hub of the writing experience as well as respects and appeals to children's natural love of hearing and telling a good story.

Dundas, Vince, and George Strong. *Readers, Writers, and Parents Learning Together. Manual* 104 p. 3-ring binder $225 (ISBN 1-878450-10-7). *Parent Handbook* 111 p. $11.95 paper (ISBN 1-878450-11-5). Richard C. Owen, 1991. (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Parents are teachers and therefore necessary elements of any successful school intervention plan is the guiding premise behind *Readers, Writers, and Parents Learning Together*, a program designed to teach parents support techniques for literacy skills development. Generated in Australia, this ten-session program identifies four areas in which trained parent tutors can help their children in grades K-8: reading, writing, spelling, and research projects. The program guide offers detailed, step-by-step lesson plans for each one and one-half hour session, including equipment lists, bibliographies, scripted material, and overhead transparencies. An up-to-date bibliography of whole language resource books concludes the manual. An accompanying *Parent Handbook* complements the program with its parallel ten-session arrangement and concludes with an extensive list of recommended books from a variety of publishers. Implementation of this program requires a facilitator, preferably but not necessarily an educator. Although Dundas and Strong state that sessions are adaptable, even optional, they stress that a number of sessions will be needed to evoke attitude change and lasting skills development. Parent commitment outside of the sessions is four to five fifteen-minute practice times with their children each week. Unfortunately, the *Parent Handbook* cannot stand on its own because it is written in specialized language, uses print styles that are sometimes hard to read, and requires explanation through session attendance. However, PTAs and school systems looking for parent involvement programs should definitely include a perusal copy of this material on their list for consideration.

Edelsky, Carole, et al. *Whole Language: What's the Difference?* 117 p. $10.95 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08537-9) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

This book offers a concise and readable summary of the whole language perspective on the function of language, language development, reading and writing, and learning. The authors also unravel common misconceptions, trace historical origins, and view several

classrooms through a whole language lens. A lucid combination of glimpses into practice, a theoretical framework, and references to research, this book is especially helpful for elementary or middle grades teachers and media coordinators as an introduction to whole language. Bibliography.

Exploring Science Through Literature. **3 levels each 49 p. each $5.95 paper. Evan-Moor Corp., 1991. (Available from I.E.S.S.)**
Level A: Grades K-1. Level B: Grades 2-3. Level C: Grades 4-6.

This series of teacher handbooks for grades K-6 demonstrates how to introduce scientific concepts and information by pairing an age-appropriate fiction read-aloud with a nonfiction one, following their reading with oral and written language activities, and then exploring these topics through scientific experiments. Suggested activities, charts, and reproducible worksheets are clearly illustrated in black-line drawings. Written in a concise instructional style using the imperative mood throughout the text, each guide limits itself to thorough coverage of six topics, including weather, plant and animal life cycles, and space travel. A plus is inclusion of ideas for integrating other curricula (e.g., art, music, physical education, and math) where appropriate. A stimulating and valuable resource.

Fisher, Bobbi. ***Joyful Learning: A Whole Language Kindergarten.*** **225 p. $17.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08569-7) (Available from I.E.S.S.)**

A detailed, informative book by an exceptional teacher, *Joyful Learning* documents Bobbi Fisher's beliefs about how young children learn and strategies she uses to implement them in her whole language kindergarten. Carefully explaining why she does what she does in her classroom, Fisher underlines her descriptions of room set-up, daily schedules, student assessment, and parent communication with discussions of theory, especially that of Brian Cambourne and Don Holdaway. Charts, diagrams, copies of children's work, and black-and-white photography illustrate the lively, well-written text. Concluding appendices contain reproducible forms, letters and charts, lists of supplies and materials, and bibliographies of children's literature, professional resources, and books for parents. Thought-provoking reading for preschool and elementary teachers.

Goodman, Kenneth S., et al. ***The Whole Language Catalog.*** **446 p. $39.95 paper. Am. Sch. Pubs., 1991. (ISBN 0-07-020102-1) (Available from I.E.S.S.)**

Exploring the whole language movement from many angles, this fascinating compendium of voices and visions incorporates personal statements, classroom ideas, portraits of teachers, articles on "hot topics," capsule notes on resources, charts, poems, lists, anecdotes (humorous and horrible), photographs, and profuse references. Major sections of the book focus on learning, language, literature, teaching, curriculum, community, and support for whole language. With an appealing grassroots flavor, this resource provides entertaining and informative browsing opportunities for teachers interested in whole language as well as handy support for those committed to this approach. Index.

Graves, Donald H. ***Build a Literate Classroom. (The Reading/Writing Teacher's Companion)*** **198 p. $12.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08488-7) (Available from I.E.S.S.)**

Graves offers a series of outcome-oriented "actions" for teachers who integrate reading and writing in their classrooms. Many activities focus on relating reading and writing to children's personal lives--"help children see that books can lead them into vicarious experiences" or "help children understand that writing involves discovery." Others pertain to study skills, collaboration with classmates, or classroom management. Appealing and accessible, the actions typically incorporate brief rationales, steps or lists, sample dialogue, and personal observations. Elementary and middle school teachers should find a number of new strategies to explore and share. List of references and index.

Griffiths, Rachel, and Margaret Clyne. ***Books You Can Count On: Linking Mathematics and Literature.*** **100 p. $12.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08322-8) (Available from I.E.S.S.)**

This idea-packed how-to book for teachers in grades K-8 delineates the relationship between mathematics and literature and its history; describes a plethora of activities based on specific books, rhymes, poems, and themes; and suggests ideas for classroom organization and student assessment. Along with illustrating how to develop mathematical thinking through literature, *Books You Can Count On* includes thoughts on integrating other content areas (e.g., science, social studies, physical education, arts education) into a literature-based approach to teaching math. Lessons are presented in outline form, ascribed grade levels (L = K-2, M = 2-4, U = 4-7), and related to specific mathematical concepts (counting, pattern, spatial relations, measurement). A stimulating interdisciplinary resource primarily for elementary grades, this text is a realistic one which acknowledges that a literature-based approach is "time-consuming but extremely valuable." Overview chart, bibliography, index.

Hall, Susan. ***Using Picture Storybooks to Teach Literary Devices: Recommended Books for Children and Young Adults.*** **168 p. $29.95 paper. Oryx Pr., 1990. (ISBN 0-89774-582-5)**

As its title announces, this softcover text is a guide to using illustrated storybooks to teach alliteration, analogy, puns, imagery, personification, tone, theme, and other literary "devices" and concepts. The bulk of the book consists of annotated bibliographies of books demonstrating all the many conventions and types of figurative language and elements of style. An introductory section analyzes the use of picture books for these purposes of instruction, wisely observing that older children as well as younger ones enjoy picture books, if unfortunately, rather guiltily. A highly useful teacher/librarian reference. List of resources and index.

Heald-Taylor, Gail. *The Administrator's Guide to Whole Language.* 189 p. $15.95 paper. Richard C. Owen, 1989. (ISBN 0-913461-97-0) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Addressing issues relevant to administrators and school-based management teams, this book is helpful as schools make transitions to the whole language approach. Heald-Taylor delineates the main features and philosophical roots of whole language, and contrasts skills-based approaches with whole language views of reading and writing. The author also discusses implementation and evaluation of whole language programs, assessment, public relations, and parent information. A cautionary checklist offers guidelines for examining commercial offerings such as "whole language basals" or class sets of literature. The book also contains summary charts of research and topically arranged resource lists. Charts, tables, and lists as well as facsimiles of students work and teacher records clarify content. Bibliography and index.

Hill, Susan, and Tim. *The Collaborative Classroom: A Guide to Co-operative Learning.* 152 p. $15 paper. Heinemann, 1990. (ISBN 0-435-08525-5) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

A timely and thorough guide written by Australian educators, this informative text demystifies cooperative learning by comparing and contrasting it with individualized and competitive situations, by providing teacher-tested ideas and strategies, and by discussing available research. Abundant charts, diagrams, and black-and-white photographs amplify in-depth exploration of such topics as forming and maintaining groups, problem solving, managing differences, and assessment. Sample materials (charts, activity cards, lessons) are included for busy K-8 teachers. Appendices contain instructions for cooperative warmups and games, activities for pairs and groups of three, lists of picture books and others to use in class discussion, a professional bibliography, and reproducible forms. A creative, supportive text for North Carolina teachers utilizing cooperative learning in their classrooms.

Hurst, Carol Otis. *Once Upon a Time : An Encyclopedia for Successfully Using Literature with Young Children.* 360 p. spiral bound $54.95. DLM Teaching, 1990. (ISBN 1-55924-324-4)

A resource for K-5 educators, this guide uses children's literature as a base for instruction. Divided into "Authors and Illustrators," "Individual Picture Books," "Themes," and "Special Pages," the text seeks to engage children's interest in reading through thematic activities, picture book activities and other models supported by annotated book lists, biographical information on authors/illustrators, sources and uses of poetry, and lists of children's records and tapes. Bound between hard covers with spiral wire, this resource will be widely used in K-5 media centers. Teachers will want their own copies. Index.

Johnson, Terry D., and Daphne R. Louis. *Bringing It All Together: A Program for Literacy.* 259 p. $17.50 paper. Heinemann, 1990. (ISBN 0-435-08502-6) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Yet another book combining whole language theory with classroom activities (this time from Canadians), this book is really a continuation of ideas begun in Johnson and Louis's earlier text, *Literacy Through Literature*. Advertised as a "practical, class-tested method for integrating literature into any K-8 classroom," this sequel contains a plethora of diagrams, charts, and examples of student work to illustrate its detailed explanations of activities and projects as well as teacher's guide for studying *The Secret of NIMH*. After touching on assessment, parent involvement, and developing a whole language curriculum, Johnson and Louis conclude with an excellent bibliography of professional resources and children's books. A gold mine of ideas for teachers using the whole language approach to literacy.

Larrick, Nancy. *Let's Do a Poem! Introducing Poetry to Children.* 121 p. $15.95. Delacorte, 1991. (ISBN 0-385-30292-4)

Filled with lively ideas and suggestions, this creative how-to book based on Larrick's Lehigh University Poetry Workshop describes an interactive approach to teaching poetry. Chapters detailing this exciting method include ninety-eight songs and poems by such diverse poets as Karla Kushkin, Mother Goose, Robert Louis Stevenson, Langston Hughes, and Native American Indians. Emphasizing personal involvement with poetry, Larrick explains imaginative ways to "do" a poem through music and rhythm, sound and language, movement and dance, and drama. Highly recommended for teacher resource and language arts collections. Directories of poets and anthologies; author/title, first line, and subject indexes.

Lloyd-Kolkin, Donna, and Kathleen R. Tyner. *Media and You.* 170 p. $29.95 paper. Ed. Tech. Pubns., 1991. (ISBN 0-87778-226-1)

Designed for elementary students in grades K-5, *Media & You* contains a media literacy curriculum which consists of five units covering mass media, production techniques, entertainment, advertising, and information. Each unit includes background information; three to six activities with objectives, discussion questions, and homework assignments; reproducible worksheets; and reference lists. A timely resource for teaching critical thinking skills (listing, analyzing, keeping records, and expressing oneself), this text would be a useful supplement for language arts, social studies, and visual arts classes. An intelligent book whose admirable goal is "to empower youngsters at an early age to understand the mass media and how it works so that they may be in control of this important aspect of their own lives." Glossary, appendices (sample letters to parents, resource organizations, PSA storyboard, copyright laws for teachers), index.

Mills, Heidi, and Jean Anne Clyde, eds. *Portraits of Whole Language Classrooms: Learning for All Ages.* 307 p. $18.50 paper. Heinemann, 1990. (ISBN 0-435-08510-7) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Designed "to demonstrate what whole language theory looks like in classroom practice," this collection of sixteen articles contains teachers' descriptions of a typical day as well as personal experi-

ences and reflections on implementing a whole language approach to literacy. Instead of being a how-to handbook, *Portraits of Whole Language Classrooms* offers a wide range of perspectives from home daycare and preschool programs to special education and ESL classrooms. Teachers of students from PreK to high school share a variety of ways in which they have made whole language theory their own (e.g., thematic units on dinosaurs and family histories, student evaluation, the authoring cycle). Black-and-white photographs, various charts, and reproductions of children's work illustrate the text. New and experienced teachers looking for tested, practical methods for creating a whole language environment will find this book and its chapter-concluding reference lists very helpful.

Molyneux, Lynn. *Cooperative Learning, Reading and Success.* 160 p. $11.95 paper. Trellis Bks., 1991. (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Designed for teachers of grades 2-6, this idea source book is a compendium of cooperative learning models to "support, enhance, and stimulate" reading programs. Chapters organize grouping strategies and learning activities under the following headings: "Cooperative Learning," "Developing Comprehension," "Developing Critical Reading," and "Nurturing Creative Reading." Rosemary Parks's black-and-white cartoons enliven the text and reproducibles. The step-by-step format makes this book particularly easy to use in classrooms "moving in cooperative, collaborative, higher-level thinking, and reading for meaning directions." Bibliography, glossary, list of works cited.

Molyneux, Lynn. *Cooperative Learning, Writing and Success.* 160 p. $11.95 paper. Trellis Bks., 1991. (Available from I.E.S.S.)

A companion for Molyneux's *Cooperative Learning, Reading and Success*, this text is also a source book of cooperative learning models and activities in a step-by-step format, this time focusing on writing programs. Rosemary Parks's black-and-white cartoons are here to complement a variety topics (connecting reading and writing, composing, building vocabulary) and to enhance reproducibles. Another teacher-friendly resource to use in grades 2-6. Teacher notes, bibliography, list of works cited.

Routman, Regie. *Invitations: Changing as Teachers and Learners K-12.* 644 p. $22.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08578-6) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Routman presents a multitude of learning strategies, carefully and clearly connected to whole language theory and models, but rooted in the classroom experience. Despite the subtitle suggesting K-12 coverage, the content focus is on grades K-6. Emphasizing the centrality of reading (both guided and voluntary), response to literature, writing in authentic contexts, and teaching strategies rather than skills, the book also addresses ability grouping, spelling, interdisciplinary approaches, evaluation, learning disabled students, classroom management, and support networks. A "blue page" section includes teacher resources, recommended literature, appendices and index. Illustrated with diagrams, photographs, and facsimiles of student work.

Schwartz, Susan, and Mindy Pollishuke. *Creating the Child-centered Classroom.* 137 p. $19.95 paper. Richard C. Owen, 1991. (ISBN 1-878450-14-X) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

A very practical resource book written by Canadian educators, *Creating the Child-centered Classroom* contains detailed chapters about classroom setup, timetabling, learning atmosphere, whole language, active learning, integrated curriculum, learning centers, recordkeeping, student evaluation, and parent involvement. In addition to a host of strategies and sample activities, this text provides thirty-seven pages of reproducible or adaptable blackline masters for student, teacher, and parent use. Abundantly illustrated with charts, diagrams, and black-and-white photography, the book is aimed at teachers of K-8 students. A helpful mix of philosophy and practice. Appendix of children's books, professional bibliography.

Wason-Ellam, Linda. *Start with a Story: Literature and Learning in Your Classroom.* 158 p. $13.50 paper. Heinemann, 1991. (ISBN 0-435-08591-3) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

A guide filled with activities for implementing a whole language approach to literature in K-8 classrooms, *Start with a Story* organizes these strategies into seven chapters headed "Listening and Talking," "Viewing," "Reading," "Writing," "Art," "Music," and "Storytelling and Drama." Incorporating a minimal amount of theory, this valuable resource briefly describes hundreds of creative, useful ideas for beginning and developing readers with different interests and abilities. Charts and simple black-and-white illustrations clarify text and outline procedures, depicting activities like semantic webs and the step-by-step process for making hardcover books. Titles and authors appearing in the text are organized into an extensive concluding bibliography. An excellent reference for elementary and middle school teachers.

Weaver, Constance. *Understanding Whole Language: From Principles to Practice.* 309 p. $18.50 paper. Heinemann, 1990. (ISBN 0-435-08535-2) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Weaver surveys the whole language arena in terms of competing models, historical roots, educational reform, and research. Advocating a transactional model and a "whole to part" orientation, she explores phonics; reading and thinking skills; testing, assessment, and accountability; and teacher change from the whole language perspective. Although some examples from the classroom are offered, the book is most valuable as a background source for program planning, curriculum development, and relating the whole language movement to other contemporary issues in education. References and index.

Wiener, Harvey S. *Any Child Can Write.* Rev. ed. 333 p. $9.95 paper. Bantam, 1990. (ISBN 0-553-34958-9)

A sound, sensible, and creative book for teachers, parents, and other adults who want to encourage writing skills among children (K-6) of varying ranges of abilities and readiness. Presented

from a well-informed, sensitive perspective, the text does not resort to outdated, didactic methods but focuses on an adult's ability to encourage and draw on the natural reservoirs of children's curiosity, expression, and creativity. Diagrams and examples of student work, liberally provided, visually represent concepts. Appendices include ideas for writing, a parent's "primer" for usage/mechanics, and useful books for children and parents.

Yeager, David Clark. *The Whole Language Companion.* 158 p. $12.95 paper. Scott F., 1991. (ISBN 0-673-46188-2) (Available from I.E.S.S.)

Designated for grades 4-8, Yeager's *Companion* is a very practical guide to "planning, personalizing, and implementing the whole language classroom." Filled with ready to use ideas, strategies, and activities "guaranteed" to work, the text also includes background information and rationale, valuable "planning tips," and fill in the blank "personal planning guides." Intended to complement an individual teacher's strengths and methods, the guide is organized into five sections on implementation, reading, writing, spoken language, and skills development. Perforations in the pages facilitate duplication and sharing with other teachers. Activities are not tied to a particular grade level, designated basal series, or specific book, enabling teachers to tailor ideas to individual needs and various classroom populations. A helpful how-to book for teachers looking for yet another resource offering advice on topics such as classroom arrangement in a whole language program, accountability, and conferences.

Other Media

Edwards, Patricia A. *Parents as Partners in Reading: A Family Literacy Training Program.* 2 training manuals, 5 videocassettes VHS $329.74. Childrens, 1990.

In this parent involvement program to teach literacy skills, Dr. Patricia Edwards has created an extensive, comprehensive system which attempts to reach several parent populations. School systems looking for a more abbreviated program of this type can adapt the material and use parts of it according to their needs. *Parents as Partners in Reading* contains instructions for setting up a family literacy program, a document detailing useful research on skills development, a training program for the "facilitator," and four separate training programs keyed to specific parent populations: illiterate and English as second language (ESL), low income and poorly educated, educated but do not read to their children, and educated and do read regularly to their children. Based on two manuals and five videotapes, this program requires money, time, and a professional facilitator who has a strong reading background. Training varies in length from twenty-four two-hour sessions (a yearlong commitment) to one or two "as needed." Detailed, step-by-step lesson plans include scripted material for the facilitator, equipment and book lists, and suggested activities. Complementing the *Family Literacy Program* manual, videotapes 1-3 ("The Importance of Reading," "Preparing for Reading," and "Reading Strategies") feature a variety of men and women of differing cultures and backgrounds who effectively model strategies that the program espouses. Videotapes 4 and 5 ("Ways of Talking in Families and Communities" and "Ways of Talking in School") are tied to the *Talking Your Way to Literacy* manual, a supplement which extends Dr. Edwards's original program to include illiterate and ESL populations. Schools should preview these tapes carefully before use to determine whether or not some dramatizations may offend intended audiences, since topics of this nature are among the most sensitive to address. *Parents as Partners in Reading* contains ideas for soliciting funds and community support, strategies to recruit parents, and a description of an essential demographic study of the school or site population. The overwhelming majority of titles called for in the session lesson plans belong to one publisher. However, Dr. Edwards does categorize these books, and school libraries should contain examples of these types in their collection if not the actual titles. Full implementation of *Parents as Partners in Reading* may require substantial funding, but schools can select what they need for a successful program from these two manuals, five videotapes, and their school libraries. Bibliographies and indexes. (See publisher's literature for components of the complete program which includes 419 titles for $4,440.)

***Learning Together: Interactive Cooperative Learning Video Series from the Student's Point of View.* 7 videocassettes, activity masters, guide VHS $795. each VHS $149. Ed. Activities, 1990.**

VS 121 (For administrators, staff developers, and teachers): *Introduction to Cooperative Learning* 25 min. VS 122 (For teachers and students): *Creating a Cooperative Classroom Atmosphere: The First Step* 20 min. VS 123 (For students): *Let's Get Started (Part I)* 24 min. VS 124 (For students): *Let's Get Started (Part II)* 19 min. VS 125 (For students): *Sink or Swim Together* 21 min. VS 126 (For students): *New Groups--New Faces* 19 min. VS 127 (For administrators, staff developers, and teachers): *Peer Coaching Is Cooperative Learning* 24 min.

Set in a classroom at the Macdonald Middle School in Fort Knox, Kentucky, this series of seven videocassettes explains and models cooperative learning for students, teachers, and administrators. Guided by a teacher who is obviously sold on the benefits of "learning together," a group of students representing both genders and several different cultures demonstrates ways of negotiating, compromising, and functioning effectively in a group setting. *Introduction to Cooperative Learning* presents an overview of the entire series, briefly explains the Slavin and Johnson & Johnson research, and offers a teacher testimonial. In *Creating a Cooperative Classroom Atmosphere*, an actual class (coincidentally involved in a lesson on knowing oneself and describing positive qualities of peers) illustrates the importance of cooperation in communication. *Let's Get Started: Part I* and *Part II* show students in unrehearsed situations that reflect step-by-step how cooperative learning groups get started and function. *Sink or Swim Together* demonstrates how problems (a communication breakdown, one group member being unprepared, students answering incorrectly) should be handled. In *New Group--New Faces*,

students work on a design assignment in a collaborative, open way, negotiating, brainstorming, compromising, and then discussing their accomplishments. Videos 2-6 are primarily directed at student viewers and reflect a positive relationship between student and teacher. Also, a college student named Scott acts as narrator and bridge between taped segments, intermittently explaining and pointing out themes, interpreting students' behavior, and describing the positive elements of group interactions. The final video, *Peer Coaching Is Cooperative Learning*, addresses administrators, staff developers, and teachers and discusses lesson design, heterogeneous grouping, ethnic balance, group processing, and social and behavioral skills. All seven videos are accompanied by reproducible materials as well as objectives, suggested formats for class/in-service sessions, and additional activities. However, teachers may object to an emphasis on grades as a major student motivator and to the inclusion of implementation instructions for the TGT (Teams-Games-Tournament), STAD (Student Teams-Achievement Design), and Jigsaw strategies without demonstration models. And yet, schools looking for how-to help on cooperative learning technique could definitely use this series, particularly for middle school advisor/advisee, peer coaching programs, and staff development.

DIRECTORY

Am. Sch. Pubs. - American School Publishers, Princeton Rd., PO Box 408, Hightstown, NJ 08520-9377 (800/843-8855)

Anchor Bks. - Anchor Books, Doubleday & Company, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103 (800/223-6834)

Atheneum - Atheneum Publishers, 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022 (800/257-8247)

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DLM Teaching - DLM Teaching Resources, PO Box 4000, One DLM Park, Allen, TX 75002 (800/527-4747)

Delacorte - Delacorte Press, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103 (800/223-6834)

Dial Bks. Young - Dial Books for Young Readers, 375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014-3657 (800/526-0275)

Doubleday - Doubleday & Company, 666 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10103 (800/223-6834)

Dutton - Dutton Children's Books, 375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014-3657 (800/631-3577)

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Ed. Tech. Pubns. - Educational Technology Publications, 720 Palisade Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 (201/871-4007)

Facts on File - Facts on File, Inc., 460 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016 (800/322-8755)

Farrar - Farrar, Straus & Giroux, Inc., 19 Union Square W., New York, NY 10003 (800/631-8571)

Forest Hse. - Forest House Publishing Co., Inc., PO Box 738, Lake Forest, IL 60045-0738 (708/295-8287)

Four Winds - Four Winds Press, 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022 (800/257-8247)

G&D - Grosset & Dunlap, Inc., 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 (212/951-8400)

Greenwillow - Greenwillow Books, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 (800/843-9389)

Guidance Assocs. - Guidance Associates, 90 S. Bedford Rd., PO Box 3000, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549 (800/431-1242)

H. Holt & Co. - Henry Holt and Company, Inc., 115 W. 18th St., New York, NY 10011 (800/247-3912)

Harcourt - Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1250 Sixth Ave., San Diego, CA 92101-4311 (800/346-8648)

HarperCollins - HarperCollins Children's Books, 10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022 (800/242-7737)

Holiday - Holiday House, 425 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10017 (212/688-0085)

I.E.S.S. - I.E.S.S., Inc., PO Box 432, Kernersville, NC 27285 (919/996-3090)

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Lerner Pubns. - Lerner Publications Company, 241 First Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55401 (800/328-4929)

Libs. Unl. - Libraries Unlimited, Inc., PO Box 3988, Englewood, CO 80155-3988 (800/237-6124)

Lippincott - J.B. Lippincott Company, 10 E. 53rd St., New York, NY 10022 (212/207-7143)

Little - Little, Brown and Company, 34 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108 (800/343-9204)

Lothrop - Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Books, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 (800/843-9389)

McElderry Bks. - Margaret K.McElderry Books, 866 Third Ave., New York, New York 10022 (800/257-8247)

Macmillan - Macmillan Library Service, 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022 (800/257-8247)

Morrow - William Morrow & Company, Inc., 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 (800/843-9389)

Orchard Bks. - Orchard Books, 387 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10016 (800/672-6672)

Oryx Pr. - Oryx Press, 2214 N. Central Ave. at Encanto, Phoenix, AZ 85004-1483 (800/457-6799)

Philomel Bks. - Philomel Books, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 (800/631-8571)

Putnam - The Putnam Publishing Group, 200 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016 (800/631-8571)

Random - Random House, Inc., 225 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10003 (800/733-3000)

Reynolds Found. - Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, 101 Reynolda Village, Winston-Salem, NC 27106-5199 (919/725-7541)

Scholastic Inc. - Scholastic Inc., 5925 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Atlanta, GA 30341 (800/325-6149)

Silver Burdett Pr. - Silver Burdett Press, Inc., 190 Sylvan Ave., Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632 (800/624-4843)

Viking - Viking Penguin Books, 375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014-3657 (800/631-3577)

Whitman - Albert Whitman and Company, 6340 Oakton St., Morton Grove, IL 60053-2723 (800/255-7675)

Zaner-Bloser - Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers, 1459 King Ave., PO Box 16764, Columbus, OH 43216-6764 (800/421-3018)

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